



## Sir Robin's master strokes leave backbenchers in deep end

SENDING in the Head of the Home Civil Service to be interrogated by a committee of backbench MPs is rather like inviting an SAS captain to face assault from a team of Morris dancers. Sir Robin Butler, Cabinet Secretary, was yesterday questioned by the Commons Select Committee on the Civil Service. They might better have spent the day knitting.

This was the first time I had seen the tall and athletic Sir Robin with his clothes on. Along with most of Britain, your sketchwriter first en-

countered him some weeks ago, appearing in a Channel 4 documentary about a lido in Brixton. His regular habits were interviewed, including two lesbian ladies and the Head of the Home Civil Service. He was seen executing a graceful breast-stroke. He was also filmed clad in a pink towel, which at one point seemed close to slipping.

Yesterday at Westminster, Sir Robin's breast-stroke was effortless. Far from making a splash he hardly ruffled the water. Towel never slipped.

The MPs, chaired by Giles

Radice (Lab, Durham N), had hoped to probe a little beneath the surface of change in the Civil Service. Butler was not playing their game. But with such skill was he not playing that we were not even conscious of the refusal. Afterwards, one could not remember a word he had said.

MPs took turns at trying to pin him down. I studied each reply, seeking a pattern we might command to any ambitious young civil servant. In fact, Sir Robin's approach is almost formulaic.

Here are the elements of

what I call A Talent to Diffuse:

- Be relentlessly pleasant.
- Sound bluff. "Grapple" with the question. Avoid the weasely *Yes Minister* style.
- Use self-deprecation.
- Don't deny: play down.
- Never admit an "either/or" situation.
- Insist that whatever has been cited is not new, and has been around since Adam.

hope the two are the same," Sir Robin said, earnestly. Had Mr Heseltine made a difference, asked Tony Wright (Lab, Cammick and Burntwood). "His activities impinge on me," Sir Robin said. What about Heseltine's idea to recruit from the professions? "I do agree with the aim," Giles Radice then suggested that Heseltine had trouble reading Sir Robin was afflicted by a sudden deafness.

Was it advisable to combine his job as Cabinet Secretary and Civil Service head? "Yes, in the absence of a better

solution." Problems were not problems, but seen by some as problems.

Performance-related pay? We've had it for years, Butler said. "A huge cut in Civil Service costs? "A great challenge." Did it cause tension? "There is always tension. Were civil servants policy-makers or (as Stephen Dorrell had claimed) "purchasers"?

"Both."

Ambassadors on boards? "We've done it for 20 years. Why couldn't the Civil Service Handbook be placed in the Commons library? Ah, noth-

ing sinister", secrecy was needed "for the security of public buildings".

Only once did the towe- seen close to slipping. Asked about a scheme to let private-sector workers try their hand at Whitehall, Sir Robin assured MPs they would be placed "where they can't do much damage: drafting answers to MPs' letters, and Parliamentary Questions". The committee bristled. Their drafts have to be checked. Sir Robin added, securing the towe. But the *frisson* was intended.

'People will worry that if Blair goes for us, it will be the Queen next'

## Peers defend right to play their part in ruling country

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THEIR Lordships were eating crumpets in the wood-panelled tearooms at the Palace of Westminster when news came through that most of them might soon be banished.

Although the hereditary peers — more than 750 of them are entitled to share the gentleman's club on the banks of the Thames with 300 working colleagues — knew that the Labour Party was "cunning" to scrap them and introduce some sort of elected chamber, they had not realised how strongly Tony Blair felt about the issue and how quickly the change might come.

Their ancestors had won their titles, often centuries before, through gallant deeds, sycophancy, refurbishing the country's coffers or being born on the wrong side of the royal sheets. Now they might have to abandon their palace before the end of the century.

Yesterday they admitted they would be an anomaly in Mr Blair's "classless Britain". They said they were undemocratic, indefensible and male dominated, but they strongly defended their right to continue playing a part in the running of the country.

Most thought Mr Blair's reference to them all being to kings was "a hoot". But they were horrified by the Labour leader's claim that the hereditary Lords used the Palace of Westminster like a club. They pointed out that they could quite happily use White's or Pratt's across the park in Piccadilly if all they wanted was some convivial banter and a place to smoke cigars, drink whisky and play bridge.

They denied that they were there just to pick up their

attendance allowance and maybe take a bath before their dinner parties, although one peer privately admitted: "A few people here really abuse the place, but they are frowned upon."

Most said the reason they went to the Lords was for the "stimulating debates" and in order to act as a balance "to the rowdier end of the Palace".

The 4th Marquess of Reading said: "When I first joined I

Lord Reading's great-grandfather was a hard-working Jewish lawyer who won his title through merit. "He certainly never flirted with royalty," he said.

The 3rd Earl Kitchener of Khartoum and of Broome said: "It may be anachronistic and illogical that I have a say in running the country, but I take this job very seriously. I would be loath to see us disappear and I am not sure the country would like it either. I have never met anyone who has attacked me over the Lords but then maybe I wouldn't meet people like that, would I?"

Another hereditary Tory peer said: "Tony Blair is a decent enough chap but I think he will come unstuck on this one. A great many people have tried to reform us, but it's harder than you think. We are like limpets and we have a great deal of history on our side. People will worry that if he goes for us, it will be the Queen next."

None of the 12 Labour hereditary peers would comment, but the working peer Lord Weatherill, former Speaker of the House and now convener of the mostly hereditary cross-benchers, said: "The hereditary cross-benchers are often extremely hard-working here. They spend hours trying to unravel messy Bills from the Commons and often stay extremely late to vote. They are badly paid but they do it because they feel they owe it to their country."

He added: "We do a good job of clipping the wings of the extreme Right and Left and

Charles II: 15 children by a variety of women

was worried by the lack of democracy, but I now see the wisdom of the Upper House. We are a wonderful, eclectic mix who can talk on the most extraordinary range of subjects. We have also been brought up with a sense of responsibility to govern. You don't have to teach a hereditary peer the ropes, he was born with an understanding of his duties."

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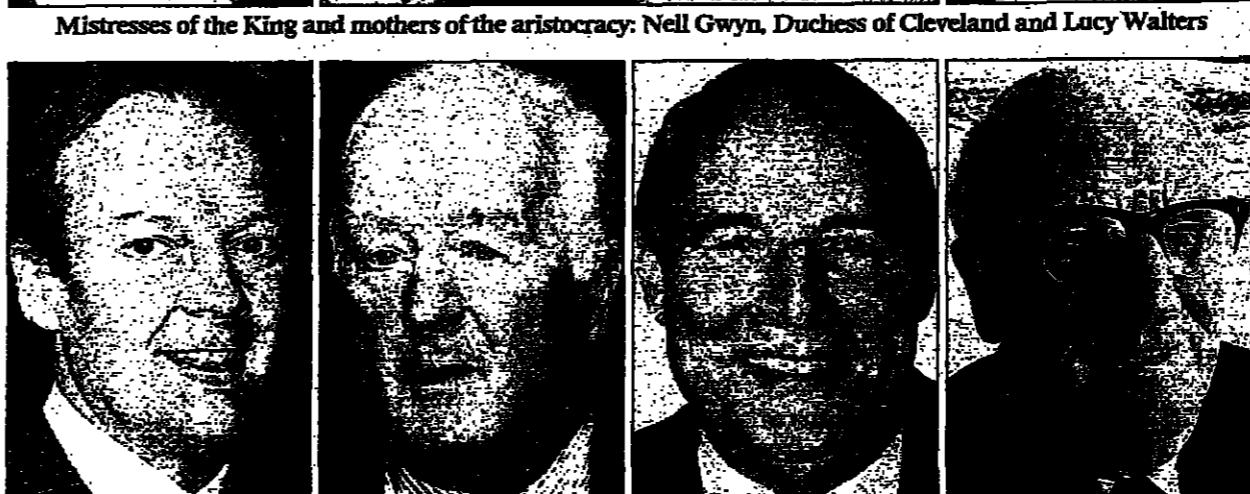
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Privileged descendants: the Dukes of St Albans, Grafton, Richmond and Buccleuch and Queensberry

## How philandering monarch left his mark

TONY BLAIR'S suggestion that Britain's most elite noblemen owe their titles to sexual favours of past monarchs can be traced back to the philanderings of Charles II. The King sired 15 children by a variety of women, some of whom were distinctly low born, and often gave out titles to their offspring in return for keeping their counsel.

Apart from the Royal Family the number of dukes — the highest rank of

British peerage — has fallen to 24. There are four semi-royal dukes who inherited their titles through the bastard sons of Charles II, who was responsible for the biggest growth in dukedoms.

The sons of Barbara Villiers, who became Duchess of Cleveland, Nell Gwyn, Louise de Keroualle and Lucy Walters became respectively the Dukes of Grafton, St Albans, Richmond and Gordon, and Buccleuch and Queens-

berry. The title of the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry dates back to 1638. He has been paralysed since a hunting accident 25 years ago.

The first Duke of Richmond, established in 1675, was one of the King's sons. The family seat is Goodwood House, Sussex. The 14th Duke of St Albans owes his title, dating from 1684, to the King's affair with Britain's best-known orange seller, Nell Gwyn.

however, is one who is willing to become extinct. "I find it extremely difficult to justify the fact that, because one of my ancestors got pissed with George IV, I can boss you all about. I would be totally in favour of deeply thought out, root and branch reform of the second chamber. I have no

objection to that at all and if that means the hereditary peerage is not allowed any say, so be it."

Many of the working peers will stand up for their hereditary colleagues. Lord Archer of Weston-Super-Mare said: "Some hereditary peers never attend but many are extremely

distinguished and would be a great loss."

Lord Winston, who is professor of fertility studies at London University, was recently appointed a working Labour peer. He said: "I am much more impressed than I expected to be by the contribution that some of the hereditary peers make. The advantage the Lords have is that there is a huge care about the place from all peers. There is a concern to find out the truth about something. There is a feeling of co-operation."

He added: "I don't believe you could get that in an elected chamber."

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## (A sneak preview)

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## Carling case does not signal press free-for-all, says Wakeham

By ALEXANDRA FREAN  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

LORD WAKEHAM, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, has written to the National Heritage Secretary, defending his decision to reject a complaint about invasion of privacy from Julia Carling.

In his letter to Virginia Bottomley, Lord Wakeham said he was concerned that the case had

given rise to mis-statements and misunderstandings that needed to be corrected. He rejected accusations by Mrs Carling's lawyers that the commission's ruling gave newspapers *carte blanche* to publicise the private lives of people in the public eye.

He pointed out that the commission is to uphold a complaint about invasion of privacy from the television presenter Selina Scott next month. Ms Scott objected to a *News*

of the *World* article which alleged that she had had an affair more than 15 years ago with a man who had given an interview to the newspaper. Ms Scott denies the affair.

In its defence, the *News of the World* produced numerous articles by Ms Scott and interviews she had given since 1984. The commission will rule that none of these warranted an invasion of her privacy concerning the reporting of events

in her life a considerable time before.

Last month the commission rejected a complaint against *The Sun* brought by Mrs Carling, the estranged wife of the England rugby captain. It ruled that she had effectively forfeited her right to privacy by co-operating previously with media articles and interviews designed in part to enhance her career as a television presenter. The ruling followed comments

by Lord Wakeham that the Princess of Wales might have compromised her right to privacy by giving her *Panorama* interview. Mrs Carling's lawyers, Smit & Co, wrote to Mrs Bottomley, complaining that the ruling would "encourage further media excess in relation to so-called 'public figures'".

Lord Wakeham said that, if true, Smit & Co's arguments would lead to the "bizarre result" of people in

the public eye being free to give information about their private lives for the purposes of self-publicity and yet able to stifle reporting on the same facts on the ground that a breach of privacy had occurred.

The commission's code of conduct says that "intrusions and inquiries into an individual's private life without his or her consent ... are not generally acceptable and publication can only be justified when in the public interest".

There are no specific regulations, however, on people who have willingly put information about themselves into the public domain.

Lord Wakeham said that each case was treated on its own merits and emphasised that the fact that a complainant has previously sought publicity did not mean that the press was entitled to publish articles on any subject involving that person or his or her family.

Scotland struggles back to work as roads in the South West are closed by fresh falls

## Three killed clearing paths after blizzards

By RICHARD DUCE  
GILLIAN BOWDITCH  
AND KATE ALDERSON

THREE people collapsed and died while clearing snow from their paths as Scotland recovered from some of the worst weather in 50 years. While most of Scotland, Wales, and western England struggled in the aftermath of heavy snowfalls, fresh blizzards hit the South West.

Hundreds of drivers were trapped in cars and lorries and the main dual carriage-way route into Cornwall was closed in several places by drifting snow. Some 2,400 homes suffered power cuts as lines were brought down in heavy winds. The lowest recorded temperature on Tuesday night was -11.3C in Madley, Hereford and Worcester - colder than Helsinki.

Scotland enjoyed a respite yesterday, allowing people in the worst affected region, Dumfries and Galloway, to clear roads and search for those trapped in the snow. But weather forecasters said blizzards would return tomorrow and at the weekend.

The M74, the main route between Scotland and England, reopened 36 hours after it had been cut off. Police began moving 1,000 abandoned vehicles and escorting hundreds of stranded motorists from the emergency centres where they had been sheltering for two days.

The atrocious weather was blamed yesterday for the loss of at least five lives. Elderly people were warned to stay indoors after three people



Hammond kept warm by a copy of *The Times*.

from Lancashire collapsed and died while clearing snow from their paths. Age Concern said any exertion in the extreme cold could put a strain on the heart and advised people to stay warm and call for help from relatives or friends.

Two people were killed when two vehicles collided on black ice on the A15 at

Marwell Zoo in Hampshire.

Teenagers die under ice

TWO teenagers died when their car sank upside-down in the icy waters of a dyke. Two others managed to escape from the crash at Benwick, Cambridgeshire.

Steve Slade-Robson, 15, one of the survivors, had smashed the windscreen of the Ford Orion with his feet as it left the road and headed into the water. He managed to crawl out to safety as it sank. He then saw the hand of 16-

year-old Laura Prince sticking up through the cracked ice and pulled her to safety. The two raised the alarm for their friends but rescue workers' attempts at resuscitation failed.

The dead were named as Russell Argoff, 12, the driver, and Sarah Law, 14, Inspector Adrian Tomkinson, of Cambridgeshire police, said: "Steve showed great presence of mind."

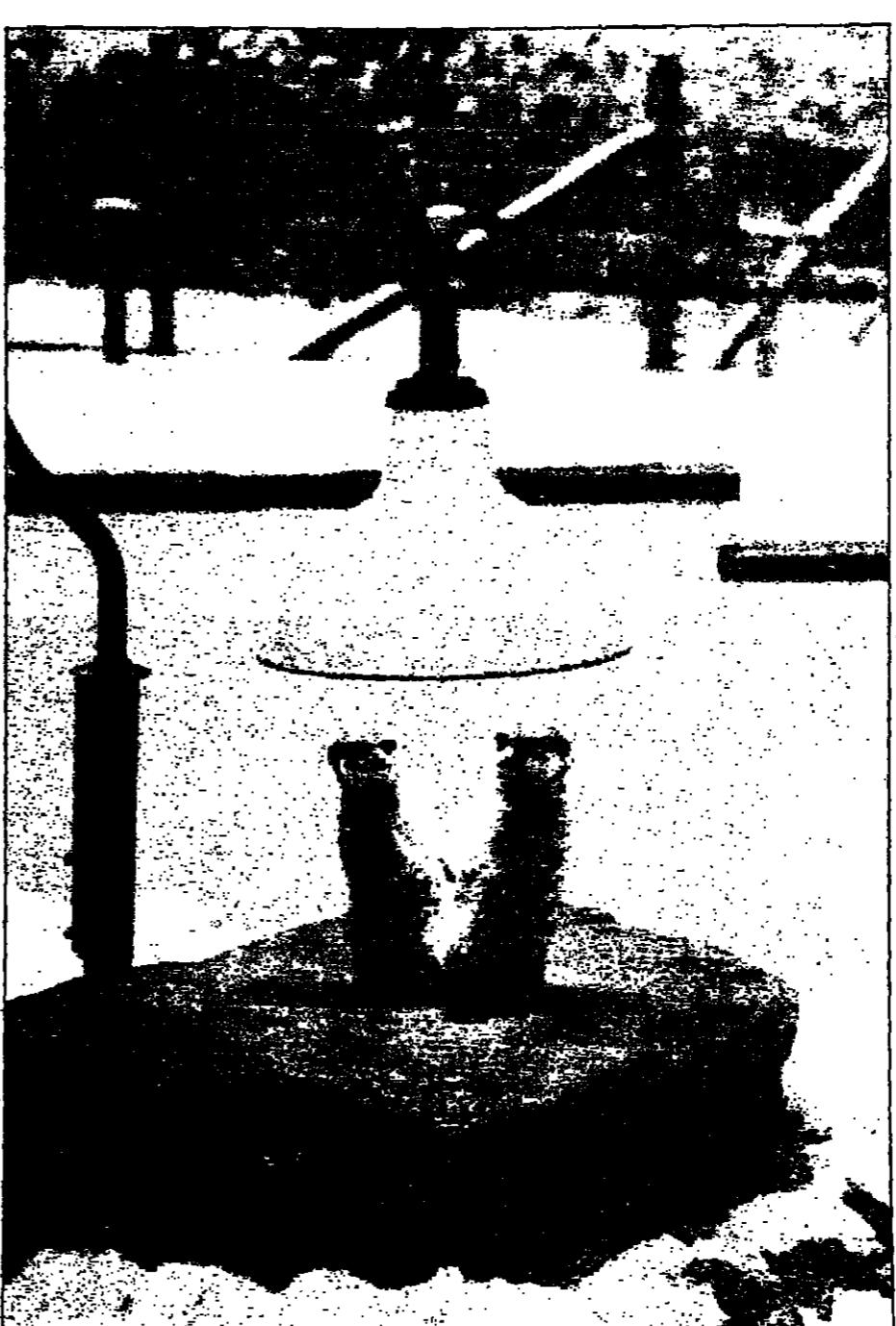
Waddingham near Lincoln and another man died when his BMW car overturned on the A3 near Petersfield, Hampshire. Dean Hart, 28, died after diving into the Tees to rescue his dog in Stockton, Cleveland. In Liverpool Elizabeth Wilson, 89, died after she was found frozen on her own doorstep.

A lifeboat was launched yesterday to collect and deliver food to 120 children snowed in at St Bees School in the west Cumbrian coastal village of the same name. Captain Leon Goldwater, skipper of the village lifeboat, sailed to Whitehaven five miles along the coast to fetch supplies for the school and 2,000 villagers.

A solicitor said he kept warm by wrapping his copy of the *Times* around his legs after he was trapped by snow for 24 hours in his car near Whitehaven. An expected two- and a half journey home for David Hammond, 53, to Whitburn, Tyne and Wear, took him three days.

At Marwell Zoo in Hampshire

householders were told yesterday that they could face a legal writ over the clearing of snow from their paths and steps. Kerry Gwyther, a personal injuries solicitor and partner at Lawrence Tuckett of Bristol, said that under the law, if a householder attempted to clear snow and failed to do a proper job of it, he was more liable than if he had left the snow uncleared.



Sun lamps were used to keep South African meerkats warm at Marwell Zoo

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Hospital screened for TB

Twenty patients and 80 staff are to be screened after a junior doctor at Fazakerley Hospital, Liverpool, contracted pulmonary tuberculosis. A spokesman for Aintree Hospitals NHS Trust said the screening was a "precautionary and reassuring" measure. The woman doctor is thought to have contracted the disease working abroad.

#### Tourists knifed

John Stewart, 66, and Eric Buchanan, 62, from Scotland, were treated in hospital for stab wounds after the fourth attack this month on holidaymakers in Cape Town by gangs of robbers.

#### Paedophile hunt

Scotland Yard is tracking paedophiles who are using computer graphics to merge pictures of children in magazines and catalogues with pornography in a practice called pseudo-imaging.

#### Domestic fixture

Manchester United has been granted a licence to hold civil marriages at its Old Trafford ground. But the ceremony can take place only in the club's Premier suite and not on match days.

#### CORRECTIONS

Although the Confederation of British Industry is opposed to legislation outlawing age discrimination, it does not believe that older workers necessarily cost more or are harder to retrain (report, February 5).

St Peter's C of E High School (report, February 6) is in Exeter, not Plymouth.

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One small step for explorers

## Satellite technology moves South Pole to its true position

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS have found that the much-photographed post used to mark the location of the South Pole is in the wrong place. American researchers using satellite mapping have discovered that the true spot is about 18in from where previous calculations had placed it.

The discovery means that

glaciologists and meteorologists have, unwittingly, been standing in the wrong spot for their traditional group photographs. It also raises the possibility that Amundsen, the Norwegian credited with beating Scott to the Pole, might have undershot his target.

The Pole's new position has been plotted by the United States Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia. Gordon Shupe, a scientist with the survey, flew to Antarctica to make sure the marking post was relocated in the proper

place. "It is not a big change. We presume that the new measurement is more accurate, so we yanked it in to where it should be," he said.

Christopher Doake of the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge, said yesterday that the discovery highlighted the increasing accuracy of satellites for mapping.

Ancient explorers used trigonometry, working out their position from the stars, the Moon and the Sun. This method can be accurate to about 100 to 200 yards. The South Pole's previous position was fixed with the use of a constellation of satellites called *Transit*. They work using the Doppler effect, known to schoolboys as the change in frequency that occurs when a train approaches and passes through a station.

The Americans used the

military's network of Global Positioning Satellites, which were also used extensively in the Gulf War to pinpoint troop positions in featureless deserts, to find the Pole's new position. The system is said to be accurate to within a yard, as against tens of yards for the *Transit* system.

The repositioning of the South Pole, reported in *New Scientist*, is unlikely to be the last word on the affair. Dr Doake pointed out that the location changes with the wobble in the Earth's orbit.

Meanwhile, American scientists will not be able to rest on their laurels. The ice sheets in Antarctica move by 10 yards a year, so the posts put in to mark the Pole's position stretch into the distance in a near line. Because of the correction, there is now a slight kink in the line.

Faraday station, the oldest base in the Antarctic peninsula, which is being renamed Vernadsky when the Ukrainians take over today.

### A TINY GRAIN OF THIS STUFF CAN KEEP A MAN'S HEART BEATING. OR A NATION'S.

Illustration: David Sibley

## Britain's farewell to Antarctic base

A CHAPTER in Antarctic history comes to a close today when Britain hands over the Faraday research station to Ukraine (Nick Nuttall writes). The oldest base on the Antarctic peninsula has been used for studying weather, the Earth's magnetic field and the ozone layer since it was set up during the British Graham Land Expedition of 1934-37.

The cost of upgrading it to modern health and safety standards has been deemed too costly. Instead the base is being given to the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, so Ukraine can restart Antarctic research after losing access to former Soviet bases.

Under the terms of the recent Antarctic environment protocol, old bases must be dismantled and removed. The handover will save £1 million in dismantling costs. Ukraine has agreed to give British scientists free data for at least a decade.

The British Antarctic Survey, which ran Faraday, has four remaining bases, at Rothera, Halley, Signy and

Bird Island. It said the loss of Faraday did not mark a rundown in research, as other bases are being expanded to accommodate more scientists with £4 million of government cash.

Today the final party of British staff sets sail on *HMS Endurance*, the ice patrol vessel. The base will be renamed Vernadsky.

There was speculation yesterday that one of Russia's Antarctic bases is to be temporarily closed to save cash, putting at risk an international drilling experiment to take ice samples dating back 300,000 years.

Illustration: David Sibley

### One in three 'unhappy' with mobile telephones

By ROBIN YOUNG

DISSATISFACTION is rife among mobile phone users, according to a survey published today by the Consumers' Association.

It says customers are obliged to sign lengthy contracts with unreliable networks for phones that often cut off in mid-call. Researchers found that almost three quarters of those paying for mobile phones had experienced problems, while nearly four out of ten said they would hand their mobile back, change tariff or move network if they could do so without financial penalty.

More than a third of 2,891 respondents to the survey were dissatisfied with at least one crucial aspect of the service. Their complaints included being cut off for no apparent reason, failing to connect to their network or having to have the mobile phone repaired.

There are more than five million users of mobile phones in Britain, and the four competing networks — Cellnet, Mercury one2one, Orange and Vodafone — expect to add at least another three million users this year.

Overall, customers of Mercury one2one and the Vodafone analogue network were found to be unhappy, while those with Orange were least dissatisfied.

### Heart tests focus on importance of anger

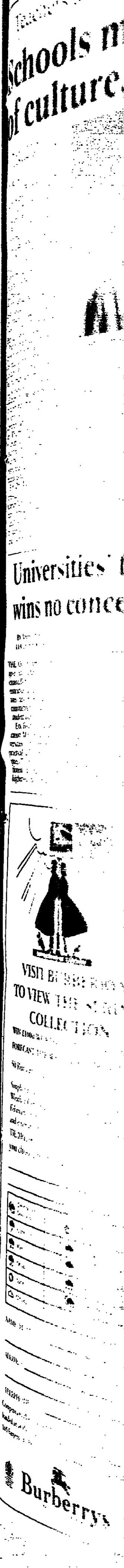
By JEREMY LAURANCE  
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS are to try to discover if angry people are more likely to have heart attacks. In the first British study on links between personality and heart disease, researchers are to measure levels of hostility in 1,300 men and women aged 60 to 80 and compare the results with heart problems suffered by them.

Personality tests will measure neuroticism, extroversion, conscientiousness and agreeableness. A separate questionnaire will look at how people deal with anger and the extent to which they express or suppress hostile feelings.

Research dating back to the 1960s has tried to show that people with a "type A" personality are more prone to heart attacks. Type "A" people are characterised by aggressive and impatient actions, rapid emphatic speech and competitiveness. The link has never been proved but interest has focused on hostility as the key element in the type A personality that predisposes people to suffer heart attacks.

The £37,000 study will be funded by the British Heart Foundation. Professor Brian Pernicosa, of the foundation, said: "A proper understanding of the psychological factors which predispose to heart disease is central to any programme of prevention."



Plutonium is a mighty feared substance. Can all the legends about it be true?

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A warm silvery metal, which yellows on contact with air. Plutonium is best known for its terrifying use in nuclear weapons. But its power has also found many peaceful uses.

The Voyager 7 spacecraft that sent us back all those stunning pictures of the rings of Saturn relied on a plutonium battery.

A form of plutonium, called plutonium-238 can be machined so that the heat of its radioactive decay energises small electronic devices.

A heart pacemaker for example. Plutonium was regularly used for this until improvements in electronics and battery technology led to other ways to power these tiny devices.

The way it worked was that a tiny amount of plutonium-238 was encased in the device.

The constant, minute amount of heat it emitted was enough to keep the pacemaker ticking.

Wasn't the pacemaker a radiation hazard? Surprisingly, no.

A sheet of tissue paper is enough to stop the alpha particles that plutonium emits.

Plutonium can also be at the heart of a nation's energy strategy.

One gramme of plutonium contains as much

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If we reprocess the used fuel from nuclear power stations, and use the plutonium recovered in mixed oxide (MOX) fuel, we can extend the life of the Earth's uranium reserves to around one thousand years.

This is precisely what our Thorp and MOX plants at Sellafield have been built to do.

In the Thorp chemical separation plant, used fuel rods, which have been generating electricity in nuclear power stations, are dissolved in nitric acid to separate out the reusable uranium (about 96%) and reusable plutonium (about 1%).

These elements can then be mixed together

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To find out more about what we do and how we do it, come and see us at the Sellafield Visitors Centre in Cumbria.

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Teachers told to put Schubert before pop to save heritage

# Schools must not blur boundary of culture, says curriculum chief

By DAVID CHATER  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SCHOOLS must introduce their pupils to high culture and help them to escape the growing creed that sees no difference between Schubert and Blur, Nicholas Tate, the Government's chief curriculum adviser, said yesterday.

Dr Tate, who recently called for a new moral code to be taught in schools, yesterday attacked "cultural relativism" and "romantic individualism" for encouraging children to place equal value on Milton and Mills & Boon, or Vermeer's *View of Delft* and Damien Hirst's dead sheep.

British heritage, and with it the notion of strong communities and shared values, was in danger of disintegrating unless teachers actively transmitted it. Just as Dr Tate wants children to be taught right from wrong, they should learn which works of art, music and literature are better than others. The revised national curriculum already insists, for example, that children should read two Shakespeare plays before the age of 14 and learn mainly British history.

But Dr Tate, launching a three-day conference called *Curriculum, Culture and Society*, proposed a series of "big ideas" to clarify the purpose of the national curriculum. He said: "A fundamental purpose



Cult or culture: Damon Albarn, lead singer of the group Blur, and Schubert

of the school curriculum is to transmit an appreciation of the culture we have inherited.

We need a more active sense of education as preserving and transmitting, but in a way that is forward looking, the best of what we have inherited from the past."

Dr Tate challenged the growing trend towards multi-media study by saying books must remain the medium of the future. Other "big ideas" included grounding the curriculum in ancient Greece and Rome, Christianity and European civilisation, and ensur-

ing that "English English", not some watered-down modern version, was taught.

The final big idea is that we should aim to develop in young people a sense that some works of art, music, literature or architecture are more valuable than others," he said. "By the post-modern view there are no differences in value between, say, Schubert's Ave Maria and the latest Blur release, or between Milton and Mills & Boon."

"The final big idea therefore is that a key purpose of the curriculum is to introduce young people to some of the

characteristics of what traditionally has been known as 'high culture', the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake. I am not saying that young people should spend all their time studying Jane Austen and Shakespeare or listening to Bach and Mozart. What I am suggesting is that we, their educators, should give these things their proper value as, in the words of Matthew Arnold, 'the best that has been known and thought'."

Other speakers opposed Dr Tate's belief. Raphael Samuel, head of history at Ruskin College, Oxford, said: "Hist-

Nicholas Tate, page 18



Chantelle Coleman, who tells her father English is too easy

## Girl's feat speaks volumes

By BILL FROST

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD girl from Wales has taught herself to speak German in six weeks. Chantelle Coleman, from St Athan, South Glamorgan, Mensa's second youngest member, is said to have an IQ of 152.

When an Austrian magazine heard Chantelle had learned Mensa, a reporter came to interview her in December. "She had never

heard a foreign language and was fascinated," her mother Margaret, 28, said. "She started to repeat the German words, then wanted to know what they meant."

"She asks for her breakfast in German every morning. I tell her to speak English but she hands me her German phrasebook and tells me to look up what she says."

Her father Alan, 28, taught her to count in German and the few words he learnt in the

RAF. "After that we had to buy her a phrasebook and tapes," Mr Coleman said. "It's like having a foreigner for a daughter. She has mastered English and says it's too easy."

Axel Riche, lecturer in German at the University of Wales, said: "German is one of the most difficult languages to learn for English speakers. She must have remarkable intelligence to pick up the language so quickly."

## Universities' threat of entrance fee wins no concessions from minister

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

THE Government refused to give in yesterday to vice-chancellors' threat of a £300 entrance fee for undergraduates and ruled out an early commitment to an expanded student loans system.

Eric Forth, the Higher Education Minister, accused universities of ignoring the practical difficulties of their plans. The minister also questioned the need for more higher-education places when

the present recruiting freeze ended.

The vice-chancellors' proposal for an entry fee to be introduced in 1997 was prompted by budget cuts. They believe that students must pay a greater share of university costs, aided by "income-contingent" loans repaid over a long period. But Mr Forth told a Tory conference in London: "One of the things that slightly irritates me about the rhetoric that we are now hearing is the idea that if you say 'income-contingent loan',

sufficiently frequently, the problems will go away."

Mr Forth, who is responsible for a government review of higher education, launched more than a year ago, said questions remained unanswered. Among them was whether further university expansion would benefit the economy, and could be sustained without damaging the quality of education.

Other options for increasing the skills of the workforce would be to channel teenagers into further education colleges or work-based vocational training. "There is a very interesting discussion to be had around what proportion of the population can reasonably be expected to benefit from what we define as higher education," Mr Forth said.

Nearly a third of young people now go on to higher education. The Conservative Political Centre, which organised the conference, called for the proportion to increase, with the costs met by replacing student grants with

reduced university fees.

Clive Booth, vice-chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, said Mr Forth had been badly briefed if he believed there were doubts about the practicality of the universities' proposals.

Government policy also

came under attack from Sir Eric Ash, chairman of the Student Loans Company, who

described the privatisation

plans before Parliament as

"unnecessarily complicated".

Sir Eric said it would have been better for a consortium of financial institutions to take over the company, rather than trying to set up a new network.

## Aid worker accused of taking baby

A BRITISH charity worker has been charged with smuggling a baby out of Romania. John Boast is alleged to have taken the 15-month-old girl from a hospital in Oradea last year and illegally transported her to Britain.

The child was found last year in northeastern Britain in the custody of an English family.

Mr Boast, 47, who works for the Great Harrow charity, denies the charge. He faces up to five years in jail if convicted. The trial is expected to start on March 1.

## Appeal defeat for the jealous killer who changed her story

A JAILED axe murderer who originally denied the killing 10 years ago failed yesterday in an attempt to claim a new defence of diminished responsibility.

Heather Arnold, now 59, had changed her story about the deaths of her teaching colleague's wife and child, but it was not credible that a court would believe her. Lord Justice Hobhouse said at the Court of Appeal.

A claim of diminished responsibility was available at the time of her murder trial, but instead she put forward an

alibi. A jury at Bristol Crown Court had found her guilty of the 1986 murders of Jeanne Sutcliffe and Heidi, her baby, at Westbury, Wiltshire.

Years later, during counselling, she told psychiatrists that she had been depressed and "hated" Mrs Sutcliffe, whom she believed was trying to stop her being closer to Paul Sutcliffe, a fellow mathematics teacher at Warminster.

Dr Dilys Jones, leading consultant psychiatrist at Broadmoor top security hospital, said in a 1993 report that Arnold should appeal against

conviction because it would be more appropriate for her to be managed under the Mental Health Act rather than as a life prisoner.

Lord Justice Hobhouse, sitting with Mr Justice Laws and

Mr Justice Butterfield, said they were being asked to substitute verdicts of "not guilty of murder, guilty of manslaughter by reason of diminished responsibility" or order a retrial. However, he said: "It is clear that she is not a person who can be treated as credible in the present matter."

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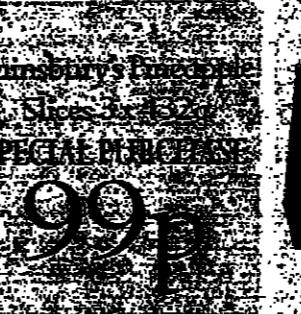
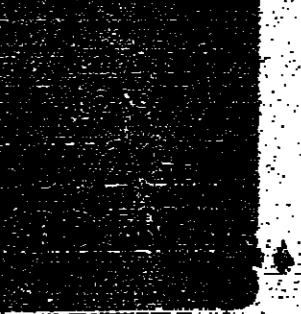
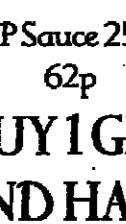
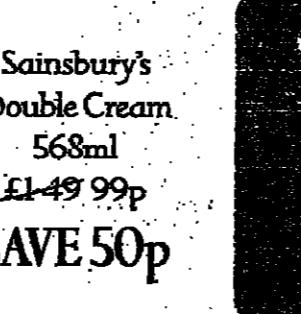
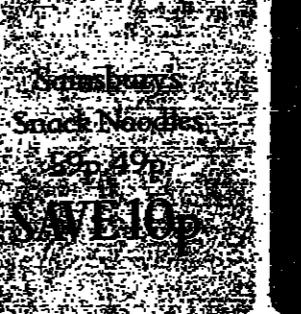
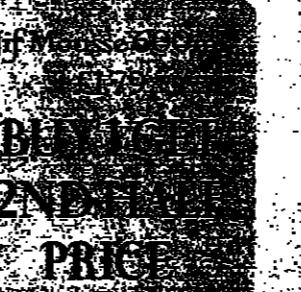
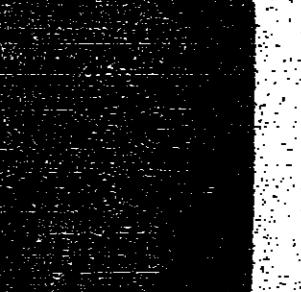
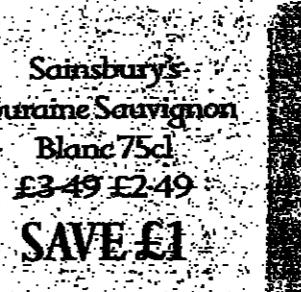
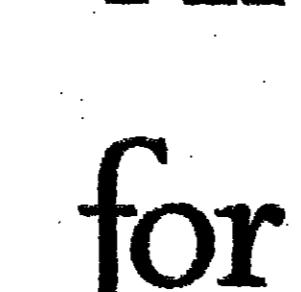
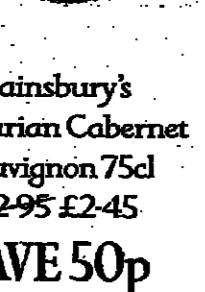
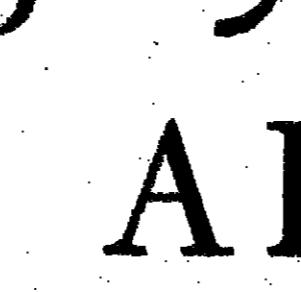
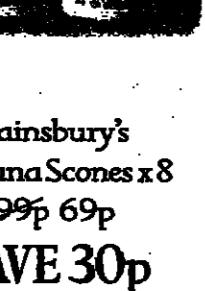
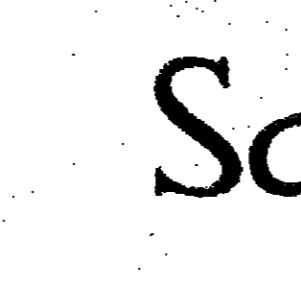
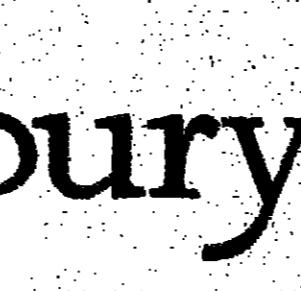
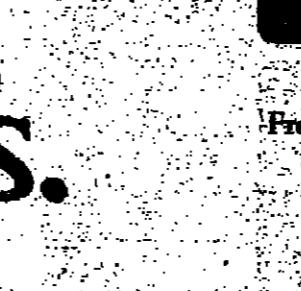
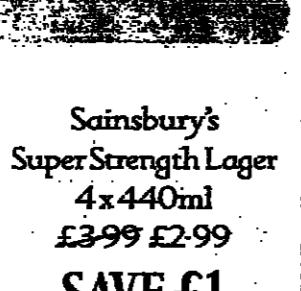
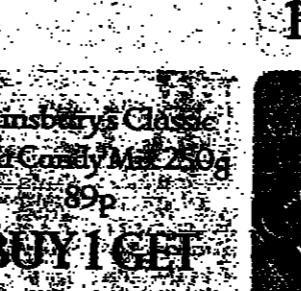
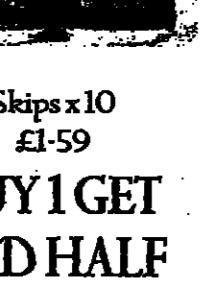
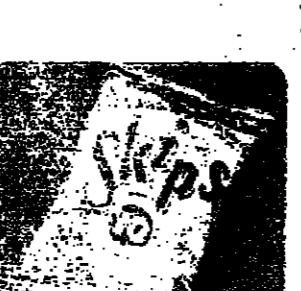
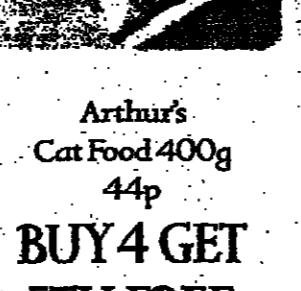
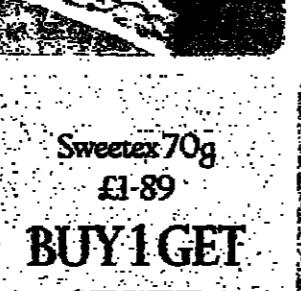
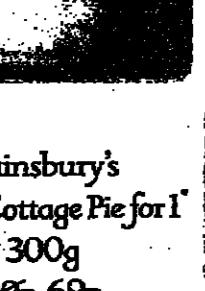
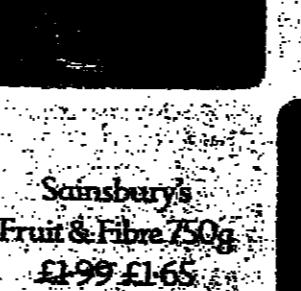
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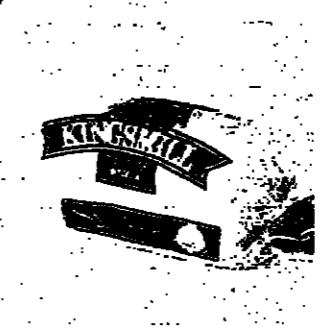
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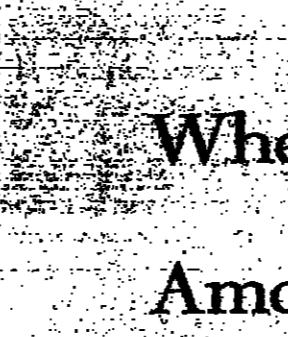
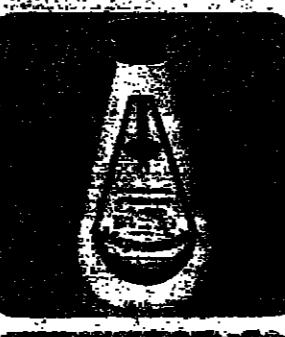
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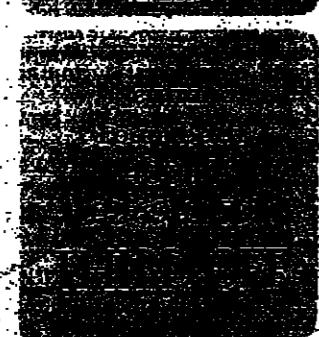
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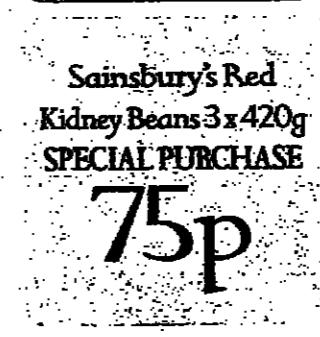
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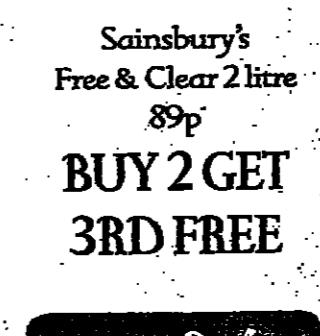
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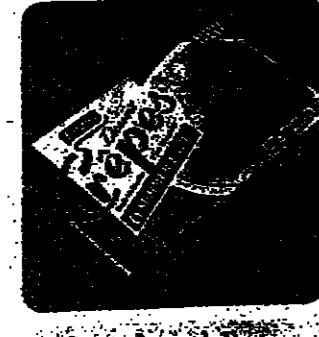
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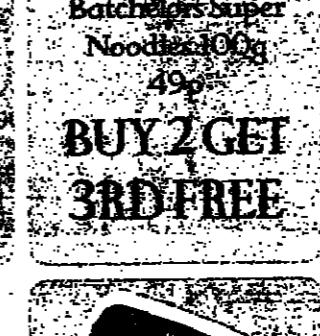
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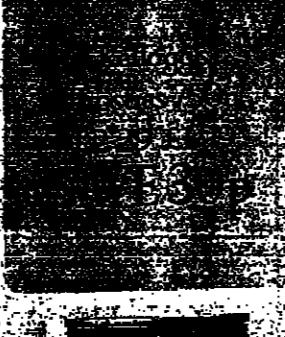
Sainsbury's  
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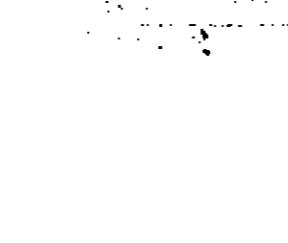
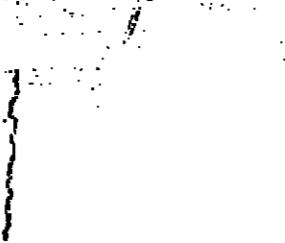
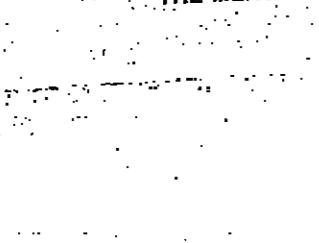
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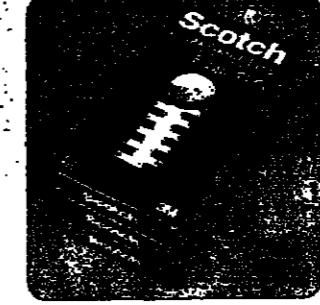
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Immigration tribunal declares millionaire's adopted son is young man of promise

## Nepalese heir to fortune 'should not be deported'

BY JOANNA BALE

A FORMER mountain boy from Nepal, heir to an 18th-century castle and a £1.5 million fortune, should be allowed to stay in Britain, an immigration tribunal said yesterday.

Jay Khadka, 19, was rescued from poverty by Richard Morley, a millionaire businessman, to honour a pact with the teenager's dead father. The tribunal concluded that "there would be little sense" in deporting Jay, although the final decision rests with the Home Office.

The appeal heard evidence from four members of a community set up by Mr Morley at Clearwell Castle in the Forest of Dean, where he and Jay live. The members, including Mr Morley's girlfriend, Helen Thomas, testified that Jay had become Westernised and that it would be a tragedy if he were to be deported. The appeal report said: "They told us that Jay was the heir apparent to the

leadership of the community. There is not the slightest danger that Mr Khadka would ever become a burden on public funds."

The report said the tribunal had been impressed by Jay's readiness to admit he would visit his family in Nepal, but added that having to live there would be traumatic for him after his experiences in Britain. "He appears a young man of promise and it would be regrettable if that promise were to be fundamentally affected by a legal process over which, in our view, he has probably had little control."

Mr Morley, 41, who has brought up Jay as his son since July 1990, said yesterday that he would leave Britain for Nepal if Jay were deported. "This is not a question of wealth or bureaucracy, but of human relationships. I therefore call upon the Government to accept the recommendations," he said.

Mr Morley said that Jay should be given indefinite leave to remain in Britain under "exceptional compassionate circumstances", which would make him eligible for citizenship after five years.

Jay, who speaks perfect English and worked as head chef at the castle's former hotel, said: "I have grown up here, been educated and now have close family and friends. If I went back to Nepal I would be isolated from my family and people there might not be able to understand me. It would be heartbreaking."

The two met after Mr Morley punctured a lung in a climbing accident in Nepal in 1984. Jay's father, Basu, a policeman, trekked for three days through the mountains to seek help.

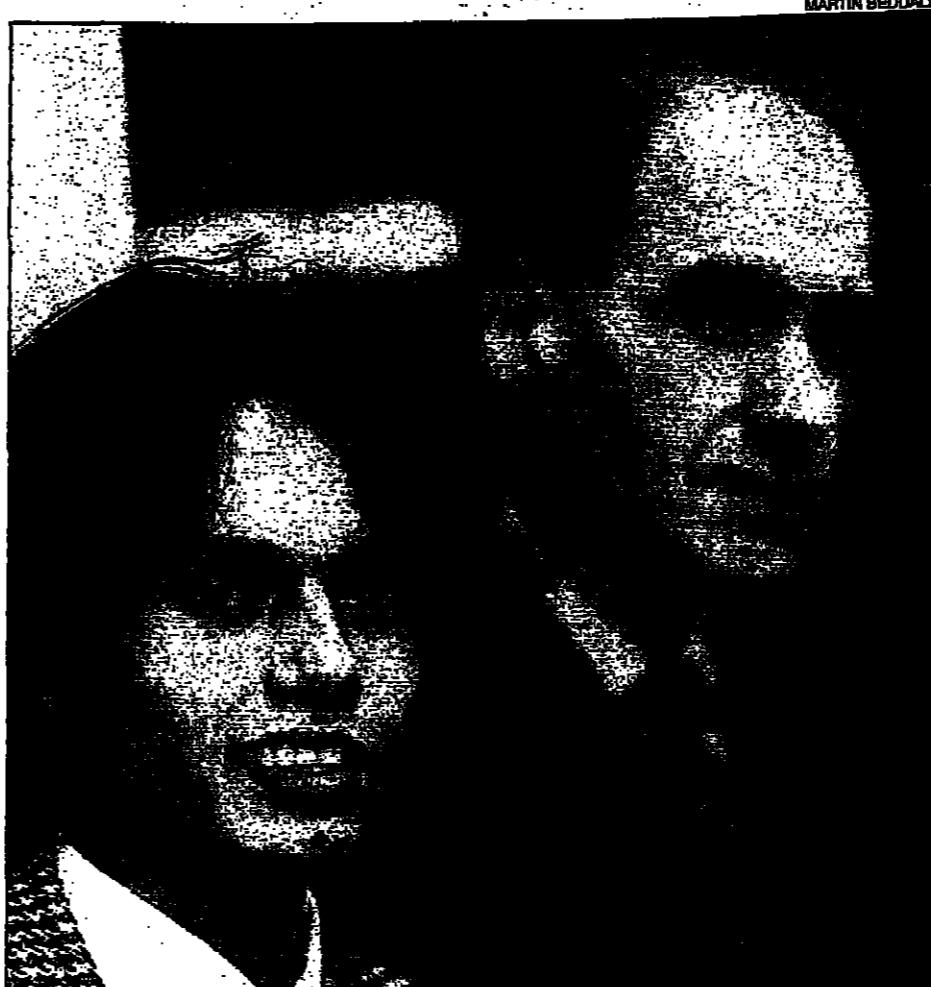
Mr Morley offered him money as a reward, but he refused and, instead, made him promise that he would care for Jay when he died. The former naval officer, who made his fortune in comput-

ers, returned to Nepal in 1990 after the death of Basu and found Jay working in a stone mine in a mountain village. He spoke no English.

Jay lived first at Mr Morley's seafront flat in Margate, Kent. Mr Morley, a widower, bought Clearwell Castle in 1994. The teenager was educated at home, reading Dickens, Orwell and Homer. He also studied fine art and classical music.

Mr Morley, who has no children, has made Jay heir to his fortune, which includes a £220,000 flat in Bloomsbury, the Margate apartment, an art collection, and a 5,000-book library at the castle.

Mr Morley said: "Jay was born under extremely auspicious religious circumstances, predicted by a guru in a Buddhist temple. He was born at a precise moment when the stars were in their maximum ascendency and the moon was in the lowest point during the festival of the goddess Kali."



Jay Khadka with Richard Morley after the tribunal supported their appeal

Old soldier knifed man for insult on VJ-Day

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A VETERAN of the Burma campaign walked free from court yesterday after he admitted stabbing a man who provoked him as he was commemorating the fifth anniversary of VJ-Day.

Edward Field, 71, a member of the Burma Star Association, had come to the Old Bailey with his campaign medals. He wept in the dock as he was given a two-year suspended jail sentence for wounding John McKenna, 40.

The incident happened after both men, who knew each other slightly, had been drinking. The court was told that Field was insulted when he tried to pass Mr McKenna and a friend in the street. This added to his feelings of humiliation over remarks about his army service made by Mr McKenna earlier.

Field, of Chelmsford, Essex, lashed out with a knife. His feelings were like a time-bomb, Jeremy Corder-Manning, QC, said. Mr McKenna suffered minor injuries and was discharged from hospital the next morning.

## Cost cutting forces closure of political correctness units

BY IAN MURRAY

THREE council departments set up to counter discrimination and promote political correctness are being disbanded as part of a city's economy drive.

Birmingham will save £1.5 million a year by scrapping the units, which had a staff of 73 covering women's affairs, race relations and equal opportunities. They will be merged into one central equalities policy unit with a workforce of 21. Surplus staff will be redeployed to other departments.

The women's and race relations units were set up 12 years ago and grew steadily in size and influence despite widespread criticism of their activities. Among ideas for which they were responsible were a Christmas with no religious symbols, to avoid the risk of offending ethnic minorities, and a £150,000 festival of racial tolerance.

The women's unit organised an annual £100,000 women's festival, which included events for bringing together lesbians with disabilities and a history of black lesbians.

In an attempt to make staff aware of prejudice, social ser-

vice consultants were called in and advised that white staff should wear badges saying "I am a racist". The council spent thousands of pounds employing interpreters to translate English into pidgin for residents who speak Caribbean patois.

The women's unit issued an instruction that all females between 50 and 70 should be referred to as "women elders" in council documents.

Pressure to get rid of the departments built up last year when they were spared cuts imposed on frontline services, including old people's homes, libraries and swimming pools. The need to make further economies this year because of the Government's tight rein on local authority spending has forced the city's controlling Labour group to take a decision to abolish them.

Brenda Clarke, the councillor who has been chairing a working party into the future of the units, said that they had done valuable pioneering work. "Their achievements have been real and measurable despite the often negative publicity from some parts of the media," she said.

## Bargain buyer finds vacuum-packed gold

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A BARGAIN-hunter who bought a second-hand vacuum cleaner for £2.65 was not too surprised when it blew up the first time he used it. But when Mike Thornton set about repairing it, he was stunned to find the dust bag contained gold jewellery worth at least £7,000.

Sparkling among the dirt were 17 gold rings, bracelets, necklaces, religious pendants and other gold trinkets. The hoard has been returned to its original owner and Mr Thornton, a maintenance engineer from Doncaster, South

Yorkshire, has received a £100 reward for his honesty.

Police traced the cleaner to a woman who lived 40 miles away in Nottingham and had used it as a hiding place for family treasures. When they moved house, her daughter dumped the cleaner in a skip. By the time her distraught mother discovered what had happened, a scavenger was recycling it in a saleroom.

Mr Thornton said yesterday: "I couldn't believe my eyes when I opened it up and all this gold just dropped on to the floor."



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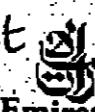
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# Ministers accused of discrediting arms-to-Iraq report

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR and the Liberal Democrats accused the Government yesterday of a black propaganda campaign aimed at discrediting the findings of the Scott Inquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair.

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, called on John Major to declare his confidence in Sir Richard Scott's impartiality and to repudiate the attacks by Lord Howe of Aberavon and Douglas Hurd. Mr Cook predicted a week of intensive Government "spinning" and "dumping" on civil servants by ministers" while everyone else was kept in the dark about the report's contents.

A team of up to 17 government officials formed to respond to the report began work yesterday afternoon after receiving copies in advance of its publication. David Gould, a former senior Ministry of Defence official, is in

charge of co-ordinating the operation and briefing ministers.

Mr Cook claimed that the response was being dictated by party political considerations.

"The Government effort is not invested in promoting the public interest but in protecting ministers' interests," he said.

With a week still to go before publication, Westminster is already captivated by the report, which threatens the careers of at least two ministers, William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General.

As rumour and counter-rumour circulated in the Commons and in the Foreign Office, Mr Cook predicted a week of intensive Government "spinning" and "dumping" on civil servants by ministers" while everyone else was kept in the dark about the report's contents.

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## What Scott examined

January 1981: Cabinet oversees and distance committee discusses arms-to-Iraq, promising market for arms exports.

October 1985: Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, tells MPs that Britain would not approve orders that would risk prolonging exacerbating the Iran-Iraq war.

May 1987: Matrix Churchill tells MI5 that Iraq is using British machinery to build weapons of mass destruction.

January 1988: Alan Clark, Trade Minister, gives a "nod and a wink" to Matrix Churchill's machine tool exports knowing they would be used in Iraqi arms factories.

August 1988: Iran-Iraq ceasefire.

December 1988: Clark and William Waldegrave secretly agree to a "bill" towards Iraq, relaxing guidelines on arms-related exports.

February 1989: Ministers agree to further exports to Iraq, knowing they would be used to make weapons.

November 1989: Mrs Thatcher tells MPs that "supplies of British de-

fence equipment to Iraq and Iran continue to be governed by guidelines introduced in 1985."

April 1990: Churchill gives pipe-approval for "supplies".

July 31, 1990: Matrix Churchill told by MI5 officials that last batch of machine tools cleared for export.

August 2, 1990: Kuwait invasion.

September 1990: Matrix Churchill and colleagues, Matrix Churchill's machine tool exports knowing they would be used in Iraqi arms factories.

May 1992: Matrix Churchill tells MI5 that Iraq is using British machinery to build weapons of mass destruction.

January 1993: Alan Clark, Trade Minister, gives a "nod and a wink" to Matrix Churchill's machine tool exports knowing they would be used in Iraqi arms factories.

February 1993: Clark tells Scott that "What's a bit of a fiddle is nothing like a fiddle."

June 1993: Leader of draft report shows Waldegrave accused of "sophistry".

February 1996: Report completed

### IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: Foreign Office questions Labour-led debates on oil privatisation, and the "right to buy" in the public sector.

Today: Backbench debate on sanctions against Libya and Iraq. In the Lords: Employment in financial services inquiry; the "right to buy" in the public sector; Representation Bill, second reading.

TODAY in the Commons: Questions to Treasury ministers and the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

Wednesday: House of Commons debate on the "right to buy" in the public sector.

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Svetlana hopes to atone for sins of atheist father who slaughtered millions of Soviet citizens

## Stalin's daughter seeks sanctuary by taking the veil

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

AFTER a lifetime spent trying to escape the bloody legacy of her father, Svetlana Alliluyeva, Stalin's only daughter, may finally have found a sanctuary for her tortured soul.

After the break-up of four marriages and the futile search over three continents for a permanent home, the restless daughter of the Soviet dictator and the century's most ruthless atheist has retreated behind the walls of a Roman Catholic convent.

Now aged 70, she has reportedly decided to live out her remaining years as a nun, in her words to "atone for the sins of my father", who is blamed for the murder of an estimated 21 million Soviet citizens.

The disclosure appeared in the popular Italian weekly *Chi*, which published letters by Svetlana to her spiritual adviser, Father Giovanni Garbolino. In one letter, written while she was still undergoing training in Britain, she described how she looked forward to making her peace with the world once she had taken her vows.



Alliluyeva: 'a heavy life'

"I shall be 70 when I take the veil," she wrote. "Finally, I will be able to become a nun. I am sure that God has called me to be closer to Him at this particular time, for it is inside the convent's walls that I acquired the peace for which I have been longing all my life and the hope which I had lost."

If she has indeed found peace of mind it will be the end of a lifelong search to escape the haunting shadow cast by her father's legacy. Although Svetlana grew up, so the truth about her father's character emerged, most shockingly when she was a teenager and he sent her first love to the camps. Passionate and unpredictable, she married twice in quick succession and had two children before she caused an international incident by travelling to India in 1967 on a two-week visit and applied to immigrate.

Although India feared jeopardising its ties with the Soviet Union, a compromise was found when she was offered a new home in America. She caused an instant sensation by her anti-Soviet views at the height of the Cold War.

She settled down in Princeton, married an architect named Wesley Peters, and although she was aged 46 gave birth to her third child, Olga. In 1972 the marriage

collapsed and Svetlana went to live in Britain, where her daughter went to school.

However, when reforms got under way in the Soviet Union in the 1980s, Svetlana was drawn back to her homeland, where she spent a few unhappy years attempting to fit back

into life, first in Moscow and then in Georgia, her father's homeland.

Once again the experiment had failed, and this time she sent her daughter to school in England while she attempted to hide from the world in a remote, log cabin in rural

Wisconsin. Eventually that, too, failed to live up to her expectations and she was last reported living penniless in an old people's hostel in west London.

This international nomad

may now have found her

peace, reportedly in a convent

in the Swiss town of Fribourg, where her identity and her past will not be allowed to interfere with her new calling. Nevertheless, it is still doubtful that the cloisters and strict routine of convent life will by themselves be able to dispel the spectre of her father, which

by her own admission rarely leaves her thoughts. Although she once told an interviewer that all she needed in life was to be left alone, it is not clear that solitude will suffice.

"It has been a heavy life," she once remarked. "Heavy to listen to, heavy to live."



As a child, Svetlana regarded Stalin as a loving and devoted father but when she grew up the truth about her father's real character emerged.

## US warns Moscow 'meddlers' in Poland

FROM PATRICIA KOZA  
IN WARSAW

THE US Assistant Secretary of State, Richard Holbrooke, issued a veiled warning to Russia yesterday not to interfere in Poland's affairs.

Mr Holbrooke, on a visit to Poland, was commenting on reports of meddling by the Russian intelligence services in the recent Polish elections and the forthcoming Czech elections. Jozef Oleksy, the Prime Minister, resigned on January 26 over allegations that he was a spy for Moscow, a scandal which many speculate was engineered to discredit Poland in the eyes of Nato.

Yesterday President Kwasniewski swore in a Polish Cabinet that retains Wladimir Kaczmarek, the Privatisation Minister, who was under attack from the junior coalition partner, the Peasant Party.

Wladimir Cimoszewicz, the Prime Minister, leads a 21-member Cabinet that includes seven members of the Democratic Left Alliance, eight from the Peasant Party and six non-party appointments.

The Peasant Party had wanted Mr Kaczmarek dumped to slow down the sale of state assets. However, a clause in the agreement, signed before the swearing-in, obliges Mr Kaczmarek "not to conduct privatisation at random". Jerry Jasinski, the Justice Minister, was among those to quit the Government.



Cimoszewicz: leads new coalition Cabinet

## Swiss in clash over Holocaust assets

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
IN JERUSALEM

JEWISH groups and the Swiss authorities engaged in a bitter clash yesterday over the amount of cash belonging to victims of the Holocaust which is allegedly being held in dormant bank accounts in Switzerland.

The row was sparked by a statement in Zurich by the Swiss Bankers Association, that a comprehensive survey had found the total in unclaimed assets from Holocaust victims and other foreign investors was estimated at \$32 million (£21 million), a figure much lower than that estimated by international Jewish experts.

The World Jewish Congress issued a stinging response, describing the statement as "a failure of moral responsibility to the victims of the Holocaust, the survivors and their families". Edgar Bronfman, the president of the congress, said: "Contrary to the undertakings given to us, the Swiss statement was made unilaterally and is unacceptable."

At a press conference in Zurich, Jean-Paul Chapuis, general secretary of the association, said of the investigation launched last September: "The rumours about huge assets hidden in Swiss banks belonging to Holocaust victims are totally unfounded."

The Swiss estimate is paltry compared with claims by Jewish experts about the figures involved. The Israeli business daily *Globes* estimated that the amount involved was £4.3 billion. Priceless works of art and jewellery are also believed to be among the wartime legacy stashed away in safe-deposit boxes by the Nazis after their Jewish owners were killed.

"After 50 years we would have hoped for greater sensitivity on the part of the Swiss bankers and the Swiss Government and are waiting for a more appropriate response," Mr Bronfman said. "The Swiss bankers have not met the test of being transparent."



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## Cyprus tells British Army to cease fire

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE British Army has been asked to stop shelling one of Cyprus's most beautiful and unspoilt areas as the island's Government plans to declare it a national park.

The "bombardment" must end, Alecos Michalides, the Foreign Minister, said. Cyprus was "discussing the issue at the highest level with Britain", he added.

The 1960 treaty that gave Cyprus its independence also gave Britain two sovereign bases covering 99 square miles and rights for live firing in several areas – including

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## ANATOLE KALETSKY 27



There is no crisis in the welfare state



## BOOKS 34-35

Do prisons work or are they holiday camps?



## SPORT 39-44

The female Gazza playing for more than kicks

GREAT PLANS FOR THE MILLENNIUM  
Travel, 36-37

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8 1996

## Tunnel rail link plan in turmoil



Young: kept informed

BY PATRICIA TEEHAN AND JONATHAN PRYNN

FINAL negotiations over the £3 billion Channel Tunnel rail link contract were plunged into turmoil yesterday when auditors were sent in to investigate alleged financial irregularities at the company that designed it.

The announcement came as the Department of Transport and London & Continental Railways (L&CR), its favoured bidder, were locked in talks over difficulties with funding arrangements.

With the contract due to be awarded within days, the investigation into Union Railways, a British Rail subsidiary, could not have been timed worse for the Government. Union Railways, which planned the 66-mile route, will be transferred to the successful bidder on April 1 after the contract has been signed.

Jim Butler, chairman of Union Railways, said that he had been told on Monday of "allegations of improper processes" within the company. "I have asked our auditors, Price Waterhouse, to conduct an investigation in these allegations and they have started this today," he said. "I have informed the Secretary of State for Transport who has asked me to keep him abreast of the progress of the investigation."

The investigation centres on irregularities in the procurement of supplies such as stationery and printing materials and the sums involved are thought to be relatively small.

The announcement of the competition winner by Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, is already a week overdue and is now unlikely to

be made before the end of next week. Government concerns over the wording of L&CR's bank agreements are thought to be behind the delay. It has asked the L&CR to provide tighter assurances from its backers that the funding will be forthcoming when the contract is signed.

Ministers are happy with the bid submitted by L&CR as it asks for a lower government grant, which is paid later. However, there are concerns, in the wake of the Eurotunnel fiasco, over the consortium's debt-financing and its ability to raise an estimated £1 billion in equity finance next year.

Both bids contain a mix of equity and debt finance. However, with the L&CR bid there is believed to be a larger portion of equity finance — up to one third of the total cost — or around £1 billion. The rest would constitute up to £1 billion of bank debt, European funds and government subsidy.

Eurotunnel plans to raise 75 per cent of its £2 billion private financing in the form of bank debt, with 25 per cent from a placing of shares with institutional investors.

The partners in L&CR are Richard Branson's Virgin Group, National Express, Ove Arup, Bechtel and SBC Warburg, which is also acting as financial adviser.

The Eurotunnel partners are Trafalgar House, NatWest, BICC, HSBC, Seaboard and Crédit Lyonnais, advised by Kleinwort Benson.

Full funding would be required between March and September next year when the "Eurotunnel effect" is still to be blighting the market for Channel Tunnel projects.

The consortium has Citibank and UBS as its lead banks. Rabobank, the Dutch bank, was part of the banking group but pulled out quietly last summer. In spite of efforts last year to attract other banks, only Dresdner Bank and Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank, the Japanese bank, have agreed to act as supporting banks.

Deutsche Bank, which was backing two earlier bids, looked at the project last summer but did not sign up and L&CR has failed to persuade any of the major UK banks to sign up to the project.

Eurotunnel's 10 supporting banks are ABN Amro, Banque Indosuez, Bayerische Landesbank, CIBC, Commerzbank, Industrial Bank of Japan, Kredietbank, Mitsubishi Bank, Royal Bank of Scotland and Swiss Bank Corp.

## BUSINESS TODAY

## STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	3276.1	(-21.4)
Yield	1832.41	(-7.00)
FTSE 100 All share	20543.49	(+192.34)
Nikkei	5456.72	(-2.80)
New York	645.94	(-0.39)
S&P Composite	545.94	(-0.39)

## US RATE

Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.50%)
Long Bond	6.10%	(11.00%)

## YIELD

3-Mth Interbank	6.0%	(6.4%)
6-Mth Gilt future (Mar)	10.0%	(10.0%)

## LONDON MONEY

STERLING		
New York	1.5373*	(1.5420)
London	1.5368*	(1.5411)
S. America	1.5271*	(1.5320)
EURO	7.2800	(7.2970)
JPY	1.0580	(1.0504)
Yen	162.47	(162.67)
E. Index	84.4	(84.3)

## USD/£ DOLLAR

CURRENT	1.5373*	(1.5420)
DM	1.4777*	(1.4715)
FFP	5.9727*	(5.0555)
JPY	1.2082*	(1.1982)
Yen	106.18*	(105.20)
S. Index	95.9	(95.7)

## Tokyo close Yen 105.05

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	516.1	(516.10)
GOLD		

## London close

	\$412.75	(\$410.55)
* denotes midday trading price		

Oftel orders BT to stop unfair subsidies

By ERIC REGULY

OFTEL, the telecommunications regulator, has directed BT to stop unfairly subsidising some of the services it provides to business customers.

After a four-year investigation, Oftel determined that BT's rates of return from certain products offered by its managed network division were too low. In order to comply with the directive, BT must raise those rates of return to 15 per cent and will accomplish this by reducing costs, raising prices or a combination of both. BT said: "We disagree with Oftel's conclusions, but we will take the necessary steps to comply."

The network services division manages phone systems for corporate clients. Oftel said that the market is worth about £400 million a year. BT's share is thought to be about 40 per cent.

The investigation was triggered by complaints from Mercury Communications and a company affiliated with AT&T. The directive covers five products, such as low-speed data-transfer systems. Oftel also wants BT to keep detailed financial records to prove that managed network customers are being charged all relevant costs.

Oftel's directive follows a similar action in September, when it ordered BT to stop unfairly subsidising equipment sales such as fax machines and basic phones. BT had to raise the prices of these products. As a result, its equipment retailing activities have been severely curtailed.

Pennington, page 25  
German alliance, page 25

## OPTIONS



Michael Ward, left, with Allen Lloyd are the bid targets

Tempus, page 26.

Kammerer: generous offer

K

## Morgan Crucible continues expansion

Morgan Crucible, the ceramics to materials group, has paid £14.5 million for an 80 per cent interest in Magna Industrial Company of Hong Kong.

Morgan Crucible, which spent £35 million on three US businesses in March 1995, has an option to buy the remaining 20 per cent of Magna, which mainly supplies speciality lubricants and maintenance chemicals through a worldwide network of distributors.

### Senior grows

Senior Engineering, the manufacturer of tubing and thermal engineering components, has acquired Jackson Industries, an American business, for £5.1 million, and Habia Teknofluor of Sweden for £2.6 million. Both acquisitions are involved in making Teflon hose products and will form part of Flexonics, a Senior subsidiary.

### Bank jobs cut

Bankgesellschaft Berlin, Germany's sixth largest bank, plans to cut 1,900 of its 16,900 workforce by the end of 1996. The bank said it proposes to focus on direct banking, telephone banking and discount broking.

### Dispute ends

Airtours, the holiday company, said a legal dispute with the Aspro family arising from its acquisition of Aspro holidays in 1993 has been resolved, and a sum of money has been paid to Airtours. The company said the terms of the settlement remain confidential.

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank Boys	Bank Girls
Australia \$	2.14	1.98
Austria Sch	1.69	1.51
Belgium Fr	49.71	45.41
Canada \$	2.215	2.058
Cyprus Cyp	0.762	0.747
Denmark Kr	9.41	8.61
Finland Mark	7.55	6.91
France Fr	8.22	7.57
Germany Dm	308.00	371.00
Hong Kong \$	12.54	11.54
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Italy Lira	5,000	4,900
Japan Yen	252.00	237.00
Malta	177.10	161.10
Northern Gld	0.985	0.940
New Zealand \$	2.43	2.29
Norway Kr	10.52	9.72
Portugal Esc	247.00	225.50
Spain Pts	1.47	1.34
Sweden Kr	11.42	10.82
Switzerland Fr	1.99	1.81
Turkey Lira	1,000	832.00
USA \$	1.836	1.908

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Philip Bushill-Matthews, the managing director of Red Mill Snack Foods, at the company's Midlands plant. Continental Foods, which acquired Red Mill in 1994, yesterday reported that pre-tax profits had increased to £807,000 from £432,000 for the half year to October 31. The interim dividend is lifted to 1.15p a share from 1p

## Packard Bell gets \$650m boost from NEC and Bull

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

PACKARD BELL, the fast growing American personal computer maker, is to mount a challenge for the world market after an injection of \$650 million in cash and businesses from its Japanese and European partners.

NEC, the Japanese combine that owns a fifth of Packard Bell, is to provide \$280 million of extra capital in exchange for preference shares. Groupe Bull, the state-controlled French computer champion, is to sell Zenith Data Systems, its US-based personal computer business, to Packard Bell, likewise for preference shares.

Beny Alagern, founder and chief executive, has made Packard Bell the fourth biggest personal computer maker-

er. In 1995, it supplied 3.1 million units and took 5.2 per cent of the world market. It ranks after Compaq Computer (10 per cent), IBM (8 per cent) and troubled Apple Computers (7.8 per cent), with NEC itself ranking fifth.

Packard Bell's share depends heavily on the slower growing US market, where it dominates retail sales of personal computers sold through shops and is second only to Compaq in overall sales.

Adding Zenith, plus closer co-operation with NEC, should also enable it to widen and to upgrade its product range. Zenith has a new range of laptop computers selling into the French public sector market and the American corporate market.

Alagern aims to have his company's shares quoted in America soon.

Packard Bell has low-cost manufacturing plants, including a French factory that makes frames for Bull. In future, NEC may share more Packard Bell production facilities outside Japan.

Adding Zenith, plus closer co-operation with NEC, should also enable it to widen and to upgrade its product range. Zenith has a new range of laptop computers selling into the French public sector market and the American corporate market.

Pennington, page 25

## Rivals show interest in Coal Investments

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

EFFORTS to rescue Coal Investments, the mining group apparently forced into administration by a cash-flow crisis, gathered pace yesterday.

John Talbot, Murdoch McKillop and Peter Tuch, administrators from Arthur Andersen received a large number of expressions of interest from rivals and potential buyers. RJB Mining, Britain's largest coal producer, said it was watching the situation and expressed sympathy for CI's 1,500 miners and staff.

But industry sources point out that RJB, which bought all of the producing English

## Goldsmiths forges link with NU

GOLDSMITHS GROUP, the jewellery retailer, has linked up with Norwich Union, the insurer, to provide replacement jewellery and watches to the company's claimants.

Norwich Union customers who have jewellery or watches stolen will be expected in most cases to find a replacement at Goldsmiths shops, which include the Walker & Hall stores.

Until now, Norwich Union has settled most claims with cash, leaving policyholders free to buy replacements wherever they chose.

## Prudential results take new format

BY MARIANNE CURPHIE

PRUDENTIAL, the UK's largest insurance company, will in future include details of short-term investment gains in assets held in the money markets when it reports half and year-end results, the company said yesterday.

Under a new European Union directive, which affects all EU insurers, two sets of performance figures must be reported. The first is operating profit, which has been used in previous results to show investment gains smoothed out over a five-year period. The second is pre-tax profit, which must include gains made either on paper or through selling stocks over a one-year period.

Jim Jack, group financial director, said payments to UK with-profit policyholders or shareholders are affected

## Singapore to join in talks on jet project

BY ROSS TIEMAN

INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SINGAPORE is to join a Chinese-led consortium in talks with British Aerospace and other European plane-makers about developing a 100-seat passenger jet.

Inclusion of Singapore Technologies Aerospace (STA Aero) in the \$2 billion project will reinforce the technical capabilities of the Asian partners as the Europeans appear set to beat Boeing of America in the beauty contest being conducted from Peking.

Boeing's launch of the 737-600 aircraft last year, targeted at the same market segment, and its inclusion of Japanese partners on the larger Boeing 777 programme appears to have undermined its credibility as a potential partner.

But with Fokker now in administration, the European consortium comprising BAE, Aerospatiale of France, and Alenia of Italy is clear favourite to take a 20 per cent stake in a programme expected to sell 1,000 aircraft worth \$20 billion.

According to an ST Aero official quoted by Reuter, Aviation Industries of China (AVIC) and ST Aero "will work together to select a Western partner". The comment appears to undermine the role of Korean partners, whose demands for a second production line and a 35 per cent stake in the project have been cold-shouldered by the Chinese Government.

However, efforts to keep the Koreans involved, as a company's supplier, will continue to reduce the prospect that they will build a rival aircraft.

Rolls-Royce has secured a \$150 million order for Trent 800 engines to power six Boeing 777 sub-jumbo jets ordered by Singapore Aircraft Leasing, a subsidiary of Singapore Airlines.

## US trade deficit falls to 18-month low

AMERICA'S deficit on goods and services fell sharply in November to its lowest level for more than 18 months, largely reflecting weaker imports as the economy slowed down last year and softness in the dollar which helped US exporters.

The deficit plunged by 15.5 per cent to \$70.4 billion from a revised shortfall of \$81.6 billion in October and compared with Wall Street expectations of a deficit of \$8.3 billion.

Exports rose 0.9 per cent in the month, while imports fell 0.7 per cent. The politically-sensitive deficit with Japan fell 13.6 per cent to \$4.13 billion in November, the lowest that it has been for more than two-and-a-half years. America's merchandise trade deficit, which excludes services, fell \$12.5 billion from \$137 billion in October, while its surplus on services, such as travel and tourism, narrowed to \$5.4 billion from \$5.6 billion. Some economists expressed concern that the huge improvement in the trade performance may be another sign of the weakness of the domestic economy which is continuing to hit imports.

### Govett counter claim

AMERICAN ENDEAVOUR, a US investment group, said that the Govett Group had filed an answer in the Royal Court of Jersey to its damages claim. The Govett Group, now owned by Allied Ireland Bank, also filed a \$450 million counter claim to the effect that American Endeavour's actions had cost the group the purchase of Duff & Phelps, an American broker and investment firm, and a subsequent loss in value. The original claim accused Govett Group and Arthur Treacher, its chairman, of fraud and mismanagement of American Endeavour funds.

### German jobless rise

UNEMPLOYMENT in Germany is expected to rise above the four million mark, as well as the 10 per cent level, according to figures due to be published today but reported in the *Frankfurter Rundschau* newspaper yesterday. The newspaper said that non-seasonally adjusted unemployment in Germany rose by 308,336 to a record 4.138 million in January. The report also said that the unemployment rate rose to 10.8 per cent from 9.9 per cent in December.

### Angerstein savings

ANGERSTEIN Underwriting Trust, reporting its first financial results since acquiring Delian Lloyd's Investment Trust, said it expects savings of £500,000 to arise in the first year following the merger, increasing to £650,000 in subsequent years. Angerstein reported net revenue of £1.65 million after tax for the half-year to November 30, an increase of 12.1 per cent over the first half of the previous year. The net asset value has increased 7.9 per cent to 98.85p a share. There is an interim dividend of 1.1p a share, up from 0.8p.

### Inquiry into Scania aid

THE European Commission has launched an inquiry into Fr24 million of state subsidies offered to Scania, the Swedish lorry maker, as part of Fr50 million aid to build an assembly plant in Angers in northwest France. The EC said it had serious doubts about the use of the funds. In 1990, the Commission approved aid of Fr190 million to Scania, then called Saab-Scania. But Scania dropped the project after receiving Fr50 million in 1992. French authorities last month said Scania would return Fr26 million plus interest.

### IT group's shares dive

SHARES in Learmonth & Burchett Management Systems, the information technology group, slumped 174p from 323p after it told shareholders that it was continuing to incur losses because of a shortfall in revenue. Learmonth, which lost £5.25 million before tax in the financial year to April 30, 1995, said that it would report a net loss in the three months to January 31. The company said that the shortfall in revenue was related primarily to business outside the US and training service revenues worldwide.

### Headlam rights issue

HEADLAM GROUP, the distributor of floor coverings and fabrics, is raising £18.3 million through a rights issue to fund two acquisitions. The company is to buy Mercado Holdings, a UK distributor of carpets, for up to £11 million, and Maile Group, a Dutch carpets and soft furnishings business, for £9.7 million. Headlam is offering one new share for every four held at 185p each. Existing shares rose 8p to 220p. Headlam estimates that 1995 profits were not less than £7.7 million before tax, rising from £5.8 million in 1994.

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT		
Year ended	31 Dec 1995	31 Dec 1994
Revenue	13,859	11,794
Surplus on realisation of investments	692	7,734
Interest received	715	72
Gold royalties and income from other sources	1,185	1,092
Income from investments	1,041	1,070
Expenditure	17,490	21,762
Administration	4,199	3,793
Interest paid	125	818
Profit before tax	13,166	17,151
Tax	4,036	4,136
Profit after tax	9,130	13,015
Unappropriated profit, brought forward	127	47
	9,257	13,062
Less	9,135	12,935
Dividends declared	6,135	6,135
Interim 20c (15c)	2,045	2,045
Final 40c (25c)	4,090	4,090
Transfer to reserves	3,000	6,800
Unappropriated profit carried forward	123	127
Earnings - per share - cents	89	127
Dividends - per share - cents	60	60
- times covered	1.5	2.1

#### DECLARATION OF FINAL DIVIDEND

Dividend No. 146 of 40 cents per share, in respect of the year ended 31 December 1995, has been declared in South African currency, payable to members registered at the close of business on 23 February 1996.

Dividends will be electronically transferred to members' bank or building society accounts on 13 March 1996 or, where this method of payment has not been mandated, dividend warrants will be posted to members on 12 March 1996.

The standard conditions relating to the payment of dividends are obtainable from the share transfer office and the London Office of the company.

The register of members will be closed from 24 February to 1 March 1996, inclusive.

London Office and Office of United Kingdom Registrar  
Gold Fields Corporate Services Limited  
Greenwich House  
Francis Street, London SW1P 1DH

7 February 1996

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
----------------------------

□ A new world power in computers □ Executives' role in a stakeholder society □ Barriers to the German telecoms market

□ GIL AMELIO, boss of struggling Apple Computers, could hardly have been greeted by worse news in his first week. Packard Bell, which has taken Apple's second spot in the American market for personal computers, is being mightily armed to assault faster-growing European and Far East markets too.

The three-way deal between Packard Bell, NEC, of Japan, and Bull, the state-promoted French computer champion, illustrates, in super, user-friendly colour graphics, the weaknesses of the pc pioneer, Beny Alagren's Packard Bell prospers because it is a low-cost manufacturer. Like Compaq, the market leader, it relies on the research overheads of component and software developers such as Intel and Microsoft.

Now it has cemented a powerful tri-continental alliance that should speed development of upmarket and multi-media products and broaden distribution. No matter that Bull is doubtless pleased to be shot of Zenith, part of new management's plan to wean France's spoilt child off state aid. It helps to build a stronger global competitor and lowers costs on new generation mass market products such as portables.

By contrast, Apple continues to saddle itself with much of its own costly software and hardware development. That is in part because it has not formed such strong strategic alliances, in turn because it does not want to give away its best secrets. When needly IBM tried an offer in 1994, Apple wanted more. Now its shares are barely two thirds of the price.

In America, which accounts for almost two fifths of the world market, growth is slowing, putting ever more pressure on costs and to share overheads. Industry analysts still expect 13 per cent growth this year, but most of that is replacement demand. Where computers are still spreading, the market is growing faster, by 70 per cent in Japan last year and a third in Europe. Pressure on margins is still intense, as even Compaq found last year. Apple, which lost \$69 million in the usually most profitable Christmas quarter, won number two spot in Japan, but suffered as much from

### The limits to accountability

□ THERE was a time when being a company director was a doddle. Long lunches with the people who put the work your way and Friday afternoon on the golf course — you remember how it was, old boy.

### PENNINGTON



In the 1980s, the culture switched to a 15-hour day, power breakfasts and the devil take the hindmost. It may have meant burn-out at 50, but again you knew where you were.

Now we are all squaring up to a stakeholder democracy even if no one knows what this entails. At the social level, it means having enough of a stake in society not to burn your surroundings down periodically out of sheer frustration at your economic impotence.

For the executive, it should involve an end to a business culture red in tooth and claw. New Labour insists that its

plans, ill-defined and inchoate though they may be, for a stakeholder culture will not require extensive legal changes to those Companies Acts that define the duties of directors.

An analysis out today from Bristol University claims, too, that no large-scale changes to corporate governance law will be necessary for UK firms to become "stakeholder companies". Professor John Parkinson, a legal academic at Bristol, says there is a "slackness of legal control over business policy".

But this is a blessing, not a disadvantage. Any redefinition of directors' duties to take in interested parties other than shareholders, such as customers, suppliers, employees and the wider community, would not, he says, reduce accountability, because the system does not provide much accountability as it is. For directors and companies, there is no legal obligation to behave in a short-term way.

It may be in the short-term interests of businesses to drive

their suppliers to the wall through sharp business practice, but notwithstanding recent remarks by Michael Heseltine, it makes no long-term sense.

### Will BT dial a better service?

□ BRITISH TELECOM and its new German partners, Viatel and RWE, are taking on Deutsche Telekom in Europe's biggest telecommunications market. Their goal is to capture as many as 15 per cent of the residential and business customers after deregulation in 1998.

In spite of the muscle and talent that the trio can offer, this looks over-ambitious. BT need only to consider the experience of its home market. When Mercury arrived in 1984, the company intended building a network and offer a portfolio of services that would challenge BT's monopoly.

Mercury, of course, failed. BT, the nimbly Leviathan, has given up little more than 10 per cent of

the market in the vast majority of service areas. BT would be foolish to expect Deutsche Telekom to fight any less furiously. What is more, the BT-Viatel-RWE consortium will emerge as only one of several upstart groups vying with Deutsche Telekom. In case anyone has forgotten, Cable and Wireless, which has infinitely more overseas experience than BT does, also has designs on Germany and has formed a broad partnership with Veba.

Mercury proved that competing on price alone is no recipe for success. In Germany, BT will not only have to be cheap, but must offer better and more innovative services. That won't be easy.

### Confusion insured

□ THE rigmarole forced on UK insurers by the EU Insurance Accounts Directive is a peculiarly pointless one even by the Eurocrats' standards. The *Pru et al* will have to publish a set of figures that is supposedly standardised with their peers across Europe, showing wild fluctuations in profits as investments rise and fall in value. Insurance company accounts have never been that transparent; the new Euro-accounts will be opaque indeed.

## Battle to revive O&R nears an end

By SARAH BAGNALL

THE long-running battle to resuscitate Owen & Robinson, the sportswear retailer, is nearly over, with news of a £5.48 million capital injection that should see its shares relisted next month after an eight-month suspension.

If successful, O&R will be the first publicly quoted company to be saved from administration while its trading subsidiary is saved simultaneously from company voluntary arrangement. O&R's shares were suspended at 16p last July — a far cry from the 720p they commanded in May 1991.

The company also revealed a management shake-up involving the departure of five of six directors, and the appointment of Maurice Dwek as executive chairman, a post he held until 1992. Rodney East and Keith Miles have been appointed non-executive director and finance director respectively.

The £5.48 million is being raised by way of a placing and open offer at 10p a share. The new and existing shares are expected to start trading on March 4.

O&R revealed a loss of £4.2 million (£81,000 profit) in the six months to July 31.

## BT alliance to put £1.5bn into German operation

By ERIC REGAL

THE alliance formed yesterday by BT and its German industrial partners will invest about £1.5 billion to launch a competing service to Deutsche Telekom, the state telecommunications group which will lose its monopoly in 1998. BT said that the alliance's goal is to capture 10 per cent to 15 per cent of the German market.

BT formed the partnership with RWE, one of Germany's largest electricity, gas and water suppliers, and Viatel, an industrial group, which both have telecoms arms.

Sir Peter Bonfield, BT's chief executive, said: "We welcome the approach taken to regulation in Germany, which has provided the regulatory environment so that these three companies can plan how to tackle these markets."

Deutsche Telekom is scheduled to be privatised later this year and the entire German market, Europe's biggest, will be thrown open to competition, a year later. Several groups, including Cable and Wireless and Veba, its partner, will be competing with BT's alliance for market share. BT has said it expects Deutsche Telekom's market share to decline to about 80 per cent by 2005.

BT, RWE and Viatel will attack both the residential and business markets. BT will provide the marketing skills and much of the technology while RWE and Viatel, whose activi-

ties give it access to about 80 per cent of the German population, will provide infrastructure and billing systems.

BT said it will try not to compete on price alone. It noted that Mercury Communications, its main rival in Britain, had made little progress by attempting to undercut BT. The ownership structure of the German alliance has not been determined yet, though each of the partners is expected to have a one-

third share. Separately, BT said it is unlikely to announce its French partner until the autumn. It had previously stated that a partner would be chosen by the end of last year.

The delay suggests that BT is having trouble finding a suitable candidate in continental Europe's second largest telecoms market. France is the biggest hole in its European portfolio; alliances have already been formed in Italy and Spain.

### Prowling warns on profits

By PAUL DURMAN

THE weak housing market claimed another victim yesterday when Prowling, the South of England housebuilder, said that its profits had been hit by patchy demand and fierce price competition.

Prowling's shares fell 11p to 102p as its broker cut its profit forecast for the year from £9.5 million to £6 million. Prowling made £9.6 million in the year to February 28, 1995.

Terry Roydon, chief executive, blamed intense price pressure in November and December. He said: "Housing had almost become a commodity product. Quality was not being paid for. Buyers were simply getting the best deals that they could."

The company said it was reluctant to drive volumes at the expense of margins.

The poor sales at the end of the year nullified a good September and October. Mr Roydon said second-half sales would be a little above 600 homes, only slightly better than the first half. The average selling price would be £97,000, a few thousand short of Prowling's target. Another factor was a higher second-half interest charge.

Mr Roydon said the market in the West Country was particularly tough. "We are not seeing the number of people retiring from the Home Counties that we used to," he said.

Steve Charnock, analyst at Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, expects the market's difficulties to continue, and more profit warnings. He said the dearer land bought in 1994 was only now showing through in results.

## Country Casuals advances

SHARES in Country Casuals, the high street clothing retailer, reached their highest level for more than a year after the company announced a 9 per cent growth in sales in the fourth quarter (Alasdair Murray writes).

The share price rose 4p to close at 154p.

The company said it performed strongly in the weeks leading up to Christmas while maintaining margins. It added that, although its early January sales were disappointing, a pick-up in January resulted in a 6 per cent increase in sales on a like-for-like basis.

Country Casuals has struggled since its flotation at 130p in 1992. In October, John Shannon, former chairman, launched a £26 million bid for the company which failed. He has since sold his 18.8 per cent stake in the company for a profit of £5 million. *Tempus*, page 26

## BAA raises £260m to aid expansion

By PAUL DURMAN

BAA, the company that runs seven UK airports including Heathrow and Gatwick, yesterday raised £260 million through an issue of convertible bonds.

The move puts BAA in a stronger position to bid for the Australian airports being privatised later this year.

BAA also announced a 14 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £374 million for the nine months to December 31. Passenger numbers increased by 5.9 per cent to 73.4 million, a rise that has continued in January.

A BAA spokesman said the bond issue took advantage of cheap money in the convertible market. The bonds will pay interest at 5.75 per cent and can convert to ordinary shares at a price of 576p, nearly 18 per cent above yesterday's mid-market price of 488.5p.

While BAA awaits the outcome of the Heathrow Terminal 5 inquiry, it is pressing

ahead with international expansion. It has formed a consortium with the insurer Australian Mutual Provident and the New South Wales superannuation authority to buy one or more of Sydney, Perth, Melbourne or Brisbane airports, Australia's biggest.

Stansted was again the fastest-growing of BAA's airports. But Heathrow, up 2.6 per cent in January, has grown by 4.9 per cent over the last year. The airport handled 54.2 million passengers in the year to end January, out of a BAA total of 92.2 million. Heathrow's current maximum capacity is about 60 million.

For the nine months, BAA's income from traffic and airport charges was £380 million, up by 4.5 per cent from £364 million. Passenger spending generated net retail income of £213 million, a 10 per cent rise. Property income rose by 11.4 per cent to £157 million.

*Tempus*, page 26

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*Tempus*, page 26

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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

# Smith & Nephew offers a touch of brightness

A WAVE of buying from the US enabled Smith & Nephew, the healthcare group, to provide one of the few bright features in an otherwise dull marketplace.

The shares ended 4p better at 189p in heavy turnover that saw almost 11 million shares change hands. But brokers were quick to rule out the revival of bid speculation. They say this latest surge of institutional support is based on fundamentals alone.

It coincides with a change of heart by several leading brokers recently. UBS is believed to have started the ball rolling by turning positive on the shares. On Tuesday, it was the turn of ABN Amro Hoare Govett, which came out with a buy recommendation. It stretches the rise in the share price during the past week to 11p.

The rest of the equity market was showing signs of strain as an early mark-up quickly ran out of steam and share prices were left to their own devices. Growing political worries and further concern about the economic revival have begun to take their toll on sentiment.

In the event, the FT-SE 100 index chose to ignore another record-breaking run overnight on Wall Street — its ninth so far this year — to end 21.4 points down at 3,726.1. Total turnover was 765 million shares.

Gehé, the German pharmaceutical distributor, finally made its move and launched a counter-bid for Lloyds Chemists, up 23p at 467p. Gehé is offering 450p a share, valuing the chemist at £57.4 million. The offer from UniChem is worth 404p a share, or £50 million.

Dieter Kaumerer, chairman of Gehé, said the terms were generous and compared favourably with those of UniChem. City speculators are now anxious to see if UniChem will raise its initial offer above that of the German company. Brokers say it has scope to do so, offering up to 480p a share before the balance sheet is affected. UniChem responded to its initial offer with a 3p rise to 248p.

A flurry of speculative buying lifted United News & Media, publisher of the *Daily Express*, *Sunday Express* and *Daily Star*, 29p higher to 624p. The group, headed by Lord Stevens of Ludgate, has refused to confirm or deny claims that it is poised to



Shares in Lord Stevens's United News &amp; Media rose

dispose of the Express titles. The story was circulating in the Square Mile last year, with Tony O'Reilly, the Irish chairman and HJ Heinz chairman, named as a potential buyer along with Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, the composer. By the close of business more than 4 million shares had changed hands in a market where traders normally make a price

John Waddington, the packaging group, fell 5p to 197p. Wise Speke, the Newcastle-based broker, has placed 5.2 per cent of the company, which had been overhauling the market with various clients. The 5.4 million shares were placed at 190p. They are believed to have been the holding of Threadneedle Investment Managers.

In 25,000 at a time. Speculative buying was also good for Mirror Group, up 6p to 201p, and Pearson, 5p better at 685p.

A profits downgrading left GKN nursing a fall of 28p to 825p. Broken are becoming worried about deteriorating conditions in the automotive market. Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, has slashed its profit forecast from £363

million to £349 million. A profits warning left Prowling 11p lower at 102p and served to highlight the problems continuing to face by companies in the building and construction industry. Sales of homes in the past two months of 1995 were sharply down on the corresponding period. Brokers immediately began reducing the price of both companies to £20.7 million.

Frost Group, the independent petrolium retailer, advanced a further 15p to 138p, reflecting this week's decision by Mercury Asset Management to increase its holding in the company with the purchase of an extra 1.7 million shares. It takes its total holding to 15.4 per cent.

■ **GILT EDGED:** Prices in London closed higher in spite of political concerns and the lack of anything firm emerging from the monthly meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England.

Brokers said gilt records

erased from a hesitant start encouraged by a technical rally among German bunds.

In the futures pit, the March series of the Long Gilt touched £109 1/2, before ending £1 1/2 better at £109 9/12.

Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 1/4 per cent 2017 rose £15 1/2 to £107 21 1/2, while at the short end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 finished 1/4 better at £104 1/2.

■ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street shares lost ground in early trading, more because of a lack of buyers than aggressive selling. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 2.39 points to 5,456.72.

the likes of Panmure Gordon, the broker, slicing £3.5 million from its estimate of £9.5 million. Other brokers have settled on a final outcome of about £6 million.

BAA Group, the independent airport operator, failed to benefit from a sharp jump in quarterly figures, with the shares closing 3p lighter at 486p as investors switched out of the ordinary and into the

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THE  
CITY  
DIARY

**Firth plays a Trump**

MIKE FIRTH, the ebullient chairman of Yorkshire Food Group, who personally lost £100,000 on his maiden Yorkshire Business Conference at Harewood House last year, is hoping for better luck on May 17.

Even though last year's event included Dr Henry Kissinger, an astronaut, a general and the Black Dyke Mills Band, only 1,300 fee-payers came to sit on chairs that were laid out for 2,000 and the marquee had to be "strung". This year, tickets sales at £200 a head, including 100 taken by group auditor Coopers & Lybrand, are going so well that the marquee is having to be "stretched".

Firth, having been spurned by six British industrialists, has lined up Donald Trump, the US property entrepreneur, Albert Reynolds, the former Irish PM, Andrew Neil, the broadcaster, CNN's Larry King and *Wild Swans* author Jung Chang. The NatWest Jazz Band will also be there — to entertain at breakfast and luncheon.

And how much will speakers be paid? "Can't break a confidence," says the man who loves to promote Yorkshire. "But Donald Trump would only be flown across the Atlantic on Concorde."

**Right chemistry**

CORPORATE love affairs don't last long these days. Germany's *Gebe* group yesterday threatened to spoil the supposed love-match between UniChem and Lloyds Chemist, which had earlier agreed a deal with its own bid. The first closing date of UniChem's bid is Wednesday — St Valentine's Day.

**Happy landing**

THE rough and tumble of the airline industry may seem a far cry from *Gebe* operations, but a growing number of senior staff at PPP, the healthcare group, have been schooled in the British Airways management style. PPP's chief executive, Peter Owen, is among the flock from BA, followed by Bob Challens, who flew in this week as managing director of the healthcare division. Denis Walker, Brenda King, and Jonathan Russell, were also once part of BA's big family.

**The early bird**

TO MAKE sure that the first set of results of the recently unified RITZ and CRA mining groups are given to the stock markets in Australia and London simultaneously on March 7, RITZ-CRA's announcement will be made at 2pm Melbourne time — 3am London time. Set your alarm clocks, chaps.

COLIN CAMPBELL

## Open skies back on the horizon

Four months after talks on liberalising air routes between Britain and the US broke down, the Americans have hinted that they are keen to restart them. As US transportation officials prepare for discussions with Germany later this month on an "open skies" air pact, the spotlight has fallen once again on Britain's transatlantic relations.

After Britain, Germany is the largest market for US airlines in Europe and is the first large European nation to move to a free-market aviation pact with the US. In a thinly veiled statement last Friday, US officials said they hoped an "open skies" accord with smaller nations would force larger ones to ease their restrictions on foreign carriers.

The central issue is US carriers' access to Heathrow, the second-busiest airport in the world, after Chicago, and the busiest international air hub. Discussions, which have dragged on for four years, ended in October in Washington with recriminations on both sides.

The US accused Britain of protecting British Airways' premier position at Heathrow, while the British were angry at being denied access to US domestic routes, which account for more than half of all flights worldwide. BA has almost 40 per cent of total take-off and landing slots at Heathrow and carries

almost half of all passengers passing through the airport.

Feelings run high on both sides. "Restarting talks depends on whether the Americans are still determined to protect their domestic market," one industry source on the British side said. "UK airlines want to be able to fly to the east coast, and then set up routes within the US, but the Americans are reluctant to go along with that. The talks broke up because the US airlines

could not stop squabbling amongst themselves."

The Department of Transport's official line is that "no date has been set" for full negotiations, although low-level talks are believed to have continued since last autumn.

However, the Americans expect an agreement within weeks between the German transport and foreign ministries and the US transportation department. Also on the Americans' shopping



Stephen Wolf, the new chairman of USAir, is expected to cut costs

list is the liberalisation of services between the US and France, Italy and Spain. BA which does a lot of business in Germany, will be watching events closely.

"A US-German deal could be just what is needed to kick-start Whitehall into resuming talks," one American source said. "Seeing an open skies agreement on major European cross-border routes will certainly cause the British Government some discomfort."

The British Government argues that Heathrow is so congested that there are few new arrival and departure slots even for UK airlines. Terminal Five, should it go ahead, would do little to alleviate the problem, with only a small increase likely in the number of flights.

Analysts, however, point to BA's relationship with USAir as a possible catalyst for further talks. (BA has had a 24.6 per cent stake in USAir since 1993.) Last year, USAir announced it was considering deals with other American carriers. USAir has a new chairman, Stephen Wolf, famed for cutting costs at United Airlines and expected to exact a similar turnaround at USAir. Should USAir's fortunes improve, BA may be encouraged to seek a three-way alliance, drawing in a larger US carrier.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

ECONOMIC VIEW BY ANATOLE KALETSKY



## Public spending is a matter for the public to decide

As long as voters are content, there is no crisis in the welfare state

Everybody seems to agree that reducing government spending is one of the great political challenges of our time. And by everyone I do not just mean members of the Major Government, who have suddenly found a rare area of consensus on this point. After spending the past week "brainstorming" with hundreds of business and politicians at the World Economic Forum in Davos, I am struck by the remarkable agreement among the global good and the great on this one point.

Yet, the most fundamental question about public spending is rarely asked and never properly answered. How much should the state spend? And how do we even approach an answer? Arbitrary figures, such as 40 per cent of GDP, or 35 per cent, or whatever we happened to spend ten years ago, have neither political resonance nor economic rationale.

What about international comparisons? Surely in a global market no country can afford to spend much more than its competitors on welfare if it is to keep down its costs and keep its citizens in jobs.

European countries cannot allow their governments to spend an average of 33 per cent of GDP when the American Government spends only 37 per cent and the Japanese only 35 per cent. The taxes required to pay for such high levels of public spending inevitably boost costs in Europe and make it impossible for European companies to sell their wares against competitors from countries which are less highly taxed.

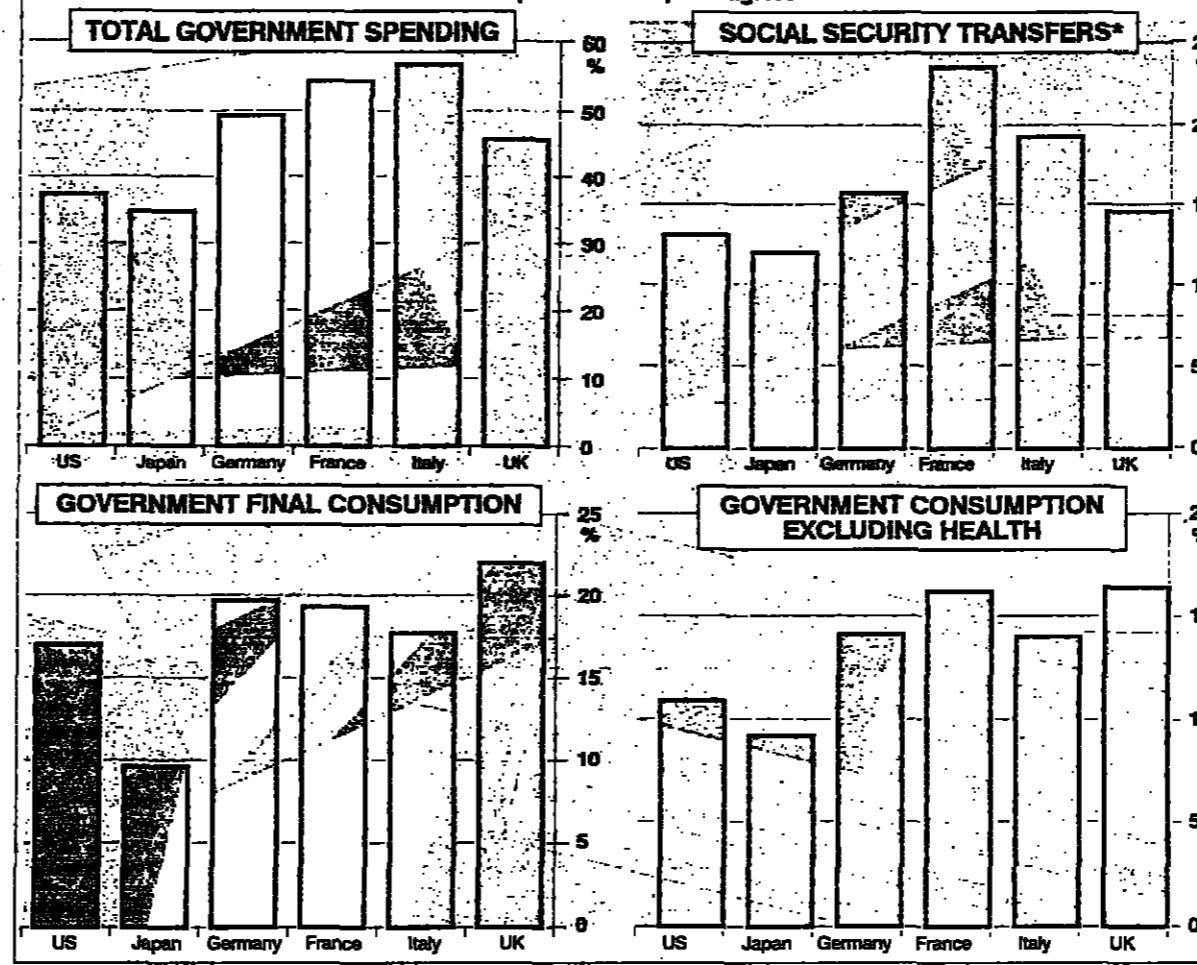
This is the standard answer from European businessmen and politicians when they are asked why it is necessary to cut welfare. You will not be surprised to learn, therefore, that it makes no sense at all from an economic point of view.

This is the fundamental question that has to be answered in assessing the size of the public sector have nothing to do with global competition: they are about the effects of taxes and public spending on efficiency, incentives and productive investment within a national economy. There can be little doubt that very high tax levels — say, for the sake of argument, 50 per cent plus — are likely to damage incentives, efficiency and investment. But when it comes to distinguishing between lower tax and spending levels — say between 35 per cent and 45 per cent — the answer is less clear.

A difference in the structure of the tax system can easily have a bigger impact on incentives than a difference in the overall tax level. A big shift in the tax burden from incomes and employment on to consumption, for example, could do far more to increase investment and work incentives

### ANATOMY OF THE WELFARE STATE

As a percent of GDP, 1993 figures



than a cut in the overall burden of tax. Comparing Germany with America again shows this is more than a theoretical quibble. Germany has consistently had a much higher tax burden than America, yet Germany saves and invests far more than America.

If Europe's structural unemployment is related to exceptionally high employment rates, then perhaps the first priority for governments should not be to cut the overall tax burden — a task which will take years to achieve — but to shift the burden from social security taxes to taxes on consumption or incomes. The trouble with this policy, of course, is that income and consumption taxes are unpopular with voters, while social security taxes are less "visible" and easier to disguise as "contributions" which will pay for later benefits from the welfare state.

This brings me to the spending side of the ledger. While it is true that total public spending is much higher in continental Europe than in America, Japan and even Britain, this does not necessarily mean that European governments waste more of their national income on employing bureaucrats and destroyed incentives with excessive taxes, might end up as poor as Albania. But that would be because it had wasted resources and destroyed incentives, not because of competition from the rest of the world.

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A country's level of taxes and public spending is not a key influence on its ability to compete in world markets. If it were, then America would have run a huge and growing trade surplus throughout the Reagan period, while Germany would by now have a foreign debt of more than \$1 trillion.

The reality, of course, is exactly the other way round. A country can choose to spend whatever it wants on government programmes and still maintain both full employment and a balance in its trade with the world. The only proviso (admittedly a big one in Europe these days) is that the country must have an independent monetary policy and a floating exchange rate.

Britain could, if it wished, devote 60 or even 70 per cent of GDP to state spending (like The Netherlands and Swe-

den). Even if the taxes which paid for this spending were loaded straight on to labour costs, British companies could still remain competitive in world markets; the pound would simply have to fall far enough to offset the extra burden on British costs — and given the attitude of currency markets to high-spending governments such a fall would be quite easy to secure. The drawback of such a policy would be that British living standards — and especially our capacity to buy foreign goods — would fall with sterling. In the end, a country which spent most of its income on bureaucrats and destroyed incentives with excessive taxes, might end up as poor as Albania. But that would be because it had wasted resources and destroyed incentives, not because of competition from the rest of the world.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

# Losses across the board

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields, and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.



## ■ FILM 1

Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic novel, *A Little Princess*, is upstaged into a magical movie



## ■ FILM 2

In the overblown *Clockers* Spike Lee roams the mean streets in search of an anti-drug message



## ■ FILM 3

Robert Rodriguez's *Desperado* proves to be a chic bloodbath led by the fast-rising Antonio Banderas



## ■ FILM 4

Keanu Reeves flounders into cyberspace for a 21st-century mistake called *Johnny Mnemonic*

CINEMA: Geoff Brown hails the unlikely success of an inexperienced director and an old-fashioned children's story

# This princess of hearts has grace in spades

**A** Little Princess really has no right to be so good. The director, Alfonso Cuarón, is a Mexican whose only previous cinema movie was *Love in the Time of Hysteria*, a sex comedy with an AIDS background. Scouring the cast list for stars, you find Eleanor Bron plus a heap of nobodies. The story it tells, updated from Frances Hodgson Burnett's novel, was good enough for Mary Pickford in 1917 and Shirley Temple in 1939; but this is 1996, and we don't take to spoilt, self-assured little girls with fancy white coats and frilly hats. Shouldn't this film make the stomach heave?

No. A miracle has occurred and a minor masterpiece is born, right from the moment when Captain Crewe tells his young daughter Sara that she "always will be my little princess" and the two dance on ship deck beneath twinkling lights. Burnett set her story in Victorian London; but here it is 1914, and Sara is en route from a luxurious life in India to a boarding school in New York, where she seems like someone from another planet. As father leaves for the First World War, headmistress Miss Minchin (Eleanor Bron) remarks what a pleasure it will be to take charge of so charming a girl.

But behind Minchin's smile lies a battle-axe who bars all make-believe after Sara disrupts the school's dull calm by spinning stories of Indian myth. Then, when news suggests Captain Crewe is no more (along with his money), the prize pupil is stripped of all splendour to join the drudge Becky, a black girl, in her dingy quarters in a Gothic tower. Minchin reckons, however, without the power of the imagination, and the same power that sustains Sara keeps the film glowing with wit and splendour.

Displaying uncommon mastery of Hollywood resources, Cuarón weaves a path through three different worlds, conjured up on the studio sound stages and a backlot street exterior. The tales Sara tells from the legend of Ramayana come in eye-popping oranges, yellows and

## A Little Princess

Warner West End

U, 97 mins

Marvellous adaptation of the children's book

## Clockers

Empire 2, 18, 128 mins

Spike Lee says "Say no to drugs"

## Desperado

Warner West End

18, 105 mins

El Mariachi again, but lightning does not strike twice

## Johnny Mnemonic

Warner West End

15, 96 mins

Futuristic folly with Keanu Reeves

## Rendez-vous in Paris

Renoir, PG, 100 mins

Fresh air from Eric Rohmer

## Loch Ness

Warner West End

PG, 100 mins

Too much Ted Danson, not enough monster

creamy whites. The school she splits them in is a menacing dark green. Then, with one snap of the editor's scissors, we squat in the trenches of the First World War, smoke looming, planes diving. Every visual mood is exaggerated, fit for a picture book; yet the artifice is never stalling.

The performances are pitched with equal care. Sara could easily appear an insufferable darling, but Liesel Matthews never slips into saccharine smiles. Bron's Minchin is no pantomime ogre, but a genuinely malevolent figure born of spite and repression, and Liam Cunningham lends gravity to the stock figure of the noble father fighting the Hun.

Richard LaGravenese and Elizabeth Chandler's script plays its dues to political correctness, with glancing treatments of oppression through sex and colour, but they never distort Burnett's plot. The only flaw lies with the composed

Patrick Doyle: a film so satisfying and replete with magic deserves something better than his banal score.

With Hollywood's other offerings we plunge back into the routine: guns, blood, dead bodies. *Clockers* thrusts them in our faces in an opening collage of crime photographs from the New York sidewalks. Having begun his movie in hob-nailed boots, Spike Lee stamps for two more hours as Brooklyn kids get sucked into the spiral of drugs and crime while Harvey Keitel's homicide cop breathes down their necks.

"You are selling your own people death"; "You ain't nothing but a bunch of death-dealing scum"; every 15 minutes or so mothers and cops turn on their siren wail. One scene collides with the next like cars crashing. Behind the camera, Lee plays rough-textured images against smooth, scatters video game footage: anything to jolt our arm. Lee's social commitment may be exemplary, but his passion is no excuse for bad, ostentatious film-making.

The pity is that *Clockers* could have been different. It stems from a fat novel by Richard Price about life in the housing projects and the low-grade dealers who work round the clock. Martin Scorsese was originally to direct; although he stayed to produce. Even with Lee's film you can glimpse something better lurking inside. You note how the cops handle a corpse with the finesse of a butcher man-handling a chicken. You feel the peer pressure among the kids, for whom crack seems the gateway to success. But then Lee mounts his soapbox: the film thunders on, then limps to a weak conclusion.

There is even more violence in *Desperado*: after one barroom apocalypse, the blood doesn't stop from the floor.

This film is Robert Rodriguez's reward for making a hit of his shoestring lark *El Mariachi*: he gets to play with Columbia's millions and bags a fast-rising star, Antonio Banderas, for his lead.

The material is much the same. The Mariachi charac-

ter, a balladeer with a guitar case full of guns, tangles with drug barons and a lady of dubious loyalties. At first, Banderas's hair is swept back, Latin charm in full view. Then he becomes an unkempt, scowling demon, shooting ostensibly for revenge, although we never feel his moral superiority. People are killed for the sake of it (one corpse is Quentin Tarantino's); death is worth only a joke.

**R**odriguez's black humour and cheeky approach to low-budget film-making made *El Mariachi* a beguiling affair. The capering looks much less attractive in plush surroundings which demand a degree of control this young maverick cannot offer. *Desperado* soon grows repetitive, and trades genuine excitement for a chic oldbore.

Meanwhile, Keanu Reeves is having a problem in *Johnny Mnemonic*; his information courier is carrying 320 gigabytes worth of data in a brain that can only cope with 160. If Johnny does not download soon, he could implode. He is also suffering from memory deprivation. He wants a life — or, as Reeves expresses it in a heartfelt cry,

"I want room service. I want my shirts laundered."

Laughing at this dreadful film is the audience's means of survival. Everything was geared for fashionable success: a story by William Gibson, the writer who thought up "cyberspace"; direction by Robert Longo, the American conceptual artist and Reeves, newly popular after *Speed*. But the hands that saved a runaway bus are ill-suited to saving the planet from Nerve Attenuation Syndrome. For that you want some signs of emotion; you certainly want a better script and a director who gives actors guidance.

Longo, however, appears to be wrapped up in technical gadgets to notice human beings. Not so Eric Rohmer, veteran of the French New Wave and 75 this year. Like most of his films, *Rendez-vous in Paris* fits along on the charm of young people talking, walking, flirting and manoeuvring through the streets and parks of Paris. He does not go in for post-production sheen: in some scenes you can hear the camera's motor whirring. Any artifice is reserved for his script, which presents three tales of love affairs spiked by chance meetings.

Do people really talk in Rohmerese, finding elegant words for all shades of emotions, seeking parallels in park statuary or a Picasso painting? Maybe not, but Rohmer's gift for coaxing natural performances from young actors makes us believe they do. The last segment, a hesitation waltz between a painter, a Swedish virgin and a woman encountered at the Picasso museum, is especially crisp and delicious.

There are greater Rohmer films than this featherweight affair, but who else among current directors shows such directness, such sensitivity to people and places, such obliviousness to fashion?

The *Loch Ness* monster may be a boon to the tourist trade, but it appears to do filmmakers no good. In 1934 *The Secret of the Loch* failed to charm. Now *Loch Ness* wastes its potential by chasing pretty scenery, acting quaint, and moaning over the personal problems of Ted Danson, the American zoologist sent to nail the myth with a sonar scan (see interview below). Joey Richardson provides romance; John Henderson, from British TV and commercials, directs. It is very dull, but harmless.

Dawn Grant, 21: Not usually the sort of film I go to see, but I thought it was quite moving. I felt really sorry for Strike, the main character. Mekhi Phifer played him really strong.

Ross Cowan, 21: I don't think it glorified violence. The characters acted cold because that's how they would act.

Alan: The guy's so wooden he could be sold as a cabinet. And the effects were rubbish: all the old *Blade Runner* stuff.

Dawn: It took me a long while to get into it, because the acting is so hammy. Keanu Reeves is a good actor as long as he keeps his mouth shut.

Ross: It started off like *Star Wars* and I thought it was going to be really good. But Keanu's opening lines are dreadful, and from then it went steadily downhill.

Dawn: I liked it. It was spectacular; the special effects were in your face. Fair enough. Keanu is wooden when he has to talk, but when he's running around he's great to look at.

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Dawn: I tell you, this film will knock your teeth out and bury

Every week, young film fans discuss some of the new releases. The first panel comes from Scotland...

## CLOCKERS

Louisa Pollock, 18: Quite powerful, very realistic, very well acted in a documentary style. But it was overlong and I didn't care what happened.

Alan Muir, 21: I disagree. It was really punchy, it came right at you. It tried to cut through all the gangster stuff and show you what it is really like to live in the New York projects, where people deal drugs as a way of life and people are killed as a by-product of that. It showed reality.

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■ VISUAL ART  
As the Tate opens its Cézanne show, *The Times* presents a daily painting by the master



■ MUSIC 1  
The making of a virtuoso: the pianist Nikolai Demidenko reflects on the virtues of being different

THE TIMES  
ARTS



■ MUSIC 2  
Jessye Norman turns Janáček's *Makropulos Case* into a star vehicle at the New York Met



■ SATURDAY  
A debut at the age of 92: the extraordinary story of the conductor Ilya Musin

Richard Cork begins a short series to mark the major Cézanne retrospective at the Tate Gallery

## Perspectives on a pioneer

I doubt if 1996 will produce a grander exhibition than the overwhelming Cézanne retrospective which opens today at the Tate, and which I reviewed in *The Times* when it was in Paris last October. For the first time in decades, the totality of his work is assembled in a loan show which, if anything, enlarges an already legendary reputation still further.

Cézanne was disgracefully under-appreciated during his own lifetime. Well into middle age, he was regarded as a failure even by sympathetic writers. By the end of the 19th century, when he had only six years to live, an increasing number of critics and young artists had begun to recognise his greatness. But only after his death did Cézanne come to be regarded as the man who, more than any other painter from the Impressionist era, mapped out the territory for modern art to explore.

To celebrate the Tate exhibition, *The Times* is publishing a daily series devoted to exceptional paintings from the show. They are particular favourites of mine, and reveal different aspects of his achievement. But these five paintings cannot tell the whole story about a complex painter whose work underwent a startling change.

As a young man, Cézanne became notorious for the violence of his art. He painted rape and murder, heaping pigment onto canvases where the turbulent brushmarks reinforced the strength of his volcanic feelings. They are often disturbing images, alarmingly uneven in quality. In the finest, though, Cézanne's passionate sense of attack is immensely powerful. And the same strength of feeling fuels his later work, even after he learnt how to curb his imaginative excess and discover, through observation of nature, how to impose classical order on everything he painted.

Talking to the Russian pianist Nikolai Demidenko is an exhilarating but disconcerting experience. You soon discover that Demidenko has no time for the usual platitudes. Expressing himself in clearly articulated English, he overturns expectations at every step.

The Russian system of musical education — now in disarray — has a reputation as something of a forcing school. Did he and himself pressurised at the Gnessin Music School in Moscow? "No, an awful lot of things to learn, but I wouldn't say it was terribly pressurised." At the Moscow Conservatoire he was fortunate to study with Dimitri Bashkirov. "I'm still convinced he's the best teacher in the world. He never told us how to

My first choice comes from the momentous period when Cézanne rejected the wild and often morbid fantasies of his youthful work. At the age of 30, he at last discovered how to develop a more measured and contemplative approach.

The pianist addresses herself to the keyboard with grave concentration. The whiteness of her dress, painted with extraordinary freedom and contrasted dramatically with the piano's blackness, emphasises the devotion she gives to the music. Her companion seems

equally intent, bowing over some darning as she listens.

Cézanne foreshadows his later invention by stripping the figures and their surroundings down to their essential forms. At the same time, he flattens the composition, so

that the vigorously brushed stripes in the carpet seem to run up the surface of the canvas.

Everything emphasises the grandeur inherent in a domestic scene, even if the women seem confined within

the cluttered claustrophobia of their bourgeois interior.

Cézanne plays tricks with perspective, allowing the piano to shoot back into space but pushing the figure on the sofa forwards. This pictorial unrest reaches its climax in the freely handled patterning on the chintz-covered armchair and above all in the surprisingly enlarged design of the wallpaper.

Here, in dancing arabesques which surely inspired Matisse, he seems to pay tribute to the inspiration of Wagner's music. The *Tannhäuser* overture was first

played in Paris in 1860 and

quickly became admired as the acme of musical boldness. Baudelaire described it as "voluptuous and orgasmic" and a friend of Cézanne predicted that *Young Girl at the Piano* "belongs to the future just as much as Wagner's music". He was right: the modernity of this painting still has the capacity to astound.

■ Cézanne is at the Tate Gallery until April 23, sponsored by Ernst Young. For advance booking, which is advised, telephone 0171-420 0000.

■ Tomorrow Richard Cork discusses Cézanne's *Still Life with Apples* 1893-94.

atre, and *Oliver!* at the Palladium), kept the eye focused on Norman. When the curtain rose, it revealed a ghoulish, misshapen figure skulking out of the old Met, hailing a taxi, and slipping into the back door of the new house to take up residence. If there is an evil phantom of the opera at the Met, he was certainly at work in recent weeks, as the company attempted to give a house premiere to Leoš Janáček's *Makropulos Case*.

The first attempt was aborted ten minutes into the performance by the tragic death on stage of the tenor Richard Versalle, who was singing the small part of the law clerk Vítek. Versalle suffered a heart attack and fell from a 20ft ladder on to the stage moments after singing the line, "Too bad you can only live so long."

The second scheduled performance was scratched by the worst blizzard in New York in 50 years. The third try proved to be the proverbial charm. Once past the first scene (which was restaged for Versalle's replacement, Ronald Naldi, without ladder-climbing), there was an almost audible sigh of relief, and the performance got to the end of the piece without mishap.

The haunted mood of the evening was not inappropriate to Janáček's strange, absurdist opera, which has given been the most interesting production at the Met thus far this season. As conceived by producer Elijah Moshinsky, this *Makropulos* is a star vehicle for Jessye Norman as the ageless (almost) opera singer Emilia Marty.

Norman, it seems, has

staked out a claim to the

diva

roles at the Met: three years ago she appeared in a new production of *Ariadne auf Naxos* (also produced by Moshinsky) as the Prima Donna. Much slimmed down, she exuded star quality without lapsing into the campy pose-striking that has marred some of her previous appearances here. She sang with liquid, silvery warmth, soaring almost effortlessly through the high tessitura in her final monologue.

The sets, by debutant Anthony Ward (whose credits include *The Way of the World*, currently at the National Theatre),



Jessye Norman: star as Emilia Marty in Janáček's opera

## Playing by his own rules

Barry Millington talks to the highly acclaimed Russian pianist

Nikolai Demidenko

Volodos recital disc for release later in the year.

Talking of Kissin, I had heard that Demidenko had helped to bring the 13-year-old prodigy to public attention in 1984, and I invited him to take his share of the credit. But no, refusing to play ball again, he tells me that he was just "one of the people" who were able to bring about Kissin's legendary debut (though it was Demidenko who persuaded the conductor Dimitri Kitamura to hear him).

At the first rehearsal for that performance, the orchestra started playing the Chopin E minor Concerto. Little boy, just turned 13, sitting there waiting, and they played the first tutti in an absolutely ordinary manner. Everything changed at the start of the piano part. From the first note, I've never seen all the wind players watching what the pianist is doing.

Nowhere has Demidenko sought to avoid the obvious more than in his choice of



repertoire. In 1993 he gave a series of six recitals at the Wigmore Hall which explored an astonishing range of piano music, from the instrument's early period (C. P. E. Bach, Voresek, Mozart), through the riches of the 19th century (Liszt, Kalkbrenner) to the complexities of the 20th (Berg, Boulez).

At his Barbican recital on

Gubaidulina), What was the thinking behind such an intrepid traversal of the repertoire? "I considered it a challenge. I just wanted to prove that I could do it."

But he is far from wedded to the idea of such live recordings. "To me, at least, live performance is one world, and recording is a completely different art. I'm much closer to the position of Glenn Gould, who claimed that musical recording doesn't have to be a snapshot of a moment; it has to have its own system behind it, rather like plastic surgery. It's not the music which happens in the concert hall; it's the music as I would like it to appear. Some phrases come from a different perspective, from a different pair of microphones. You can't move around in the hall during the recital. But you can move on the record and sometimes the results are very beautiful, so why not?"

The thought of major one-composer cycles does not excite him, though he has a double CD of Schubert's piano music on from Hyperion, which is also recording Prokofiev piano concertos with him.

At his Barbican recital on

Sunday, he will once again avoid the obvious by including Chopin's least known piano sonata, No 1 in C minor. "It's not any worse, it's just different." And he will also be presenting Schumann's *Etudes Symphoniques* in the less familiar first version, before it was heavily edited by the composer's wife, Clara, and Brahms. "There is a huge chunk of music, a whole page, in the first version, which didn't make it into the edited version of 1852. He also showed where he wanted one of the extra variations." In the middle of another variation, the metronome markings were changed too. "It turns out that what Schumann demands is to play almost the whole set in the same tempo. It's an impossible thing to do, but it's an interesting idea."

■ Nikolai Demidenko plays at the Barbican (0171-928 8891) on Sunday at 4pm.

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Nicholas Mosley is a novelist who seeks order in entropy and has the courage to grapple with the unknown, says Rachel Cusk

**N**ovels are so often about what the novelist *knows* that it comes as rather a surprise to read one that is about precisely the reverse. Where the writer can frequently be found standing at his line with greater or lesser elegance to reel the knowledge in, Nicholas Mosley wades out to sea with nothing but his bare hands in the hope of catching something new. Whether he succeeds or not is another question: but the profoundly experimental nature of his writing marks him out as one of our most adventurous and provocative voices.

*Children of Darkness and Light* is a curious but timely novel, as remarkable as it is often opaque, which attempts to address the subject of human entropy while seeking some obscured, necessary order within it. More specifically, it is about the problem of investigation and the difficulties too of inhabiting the tense, shifting border between what is known and what is not.

Harry is a journalist increasingly drawn to this border, the place

## A holy apparition as a sign of the times

**CHILDREN OF DARKNESS AND LIGHT**  
By Nicholas Mosley  
Secker & Warburg, £15.99

where in the act of observation reality is manufactured, whose desire to be the factotum rather than the author of truth has stripped him of agency. His fragmented, disordered consciousness is jeopardised still further by drink, and by an itinerant lifestyle which strains his already fragile marriage.

What appears at first to be incoherence, as we are borne along on the muddled stream of Harry's thoughts, is in fact a writer of unprocessed intelligence; the narrative of a mind reluctant to stamp experience with personal interpretation. As Harry's sense of himself dissolves, so his observations pro-

liferate: identity is here an obstruction, an interference without which things might happen as they were meant to and reality thus be enhanced.

As he goes about his investigations, Harry's passivity becomes almost comic: "I had become imbued with the idea that unnecessary questions might divert the course of understanding or even of what would happen." What he is investigating is the story of a group of children in Cumbria who claim to have received a visitation from the Virgin Mary, and have subsequently decamped to the hills above their seaside village and set themselves up on their own.

Some of the children are from Bosnia, where a few years previously Harry covered a similar story: a story in which he interpreted the repetitiveness of the Virgin Mary's visits as an attempt to bore the human race into taking the initiative itself. "I said that the



Mosley: an adventurous voice

us, her children, to recognise this and grow up and start working things out on our own."

Once in Cumbria, Harry discovers that the apparition is not merely a metaphor, but an entire fiction written, in some sense, for him. His suspicion on arrival that he has been expected, that everybody knows who he is and what he represents, that a play is waiting to be enacted for which he is the necessary audience: all this suggests that by singling himself out as invisible, he has become visible, that rather than observing the story, he has caused it.

Rumours abound of radiation leaks from a local nuclear plant, of abuses of the children by Social Services; but the more Harry tries to confirm or dispel these rumours, the more facts refuse to perform. "Would it be possible?" he wonders, "to devise an experiment at which one could be looking without exactly looking?"

wards evil, decay, disorder, pollution — "people feeling at home if they land themselves in the shit". It comes to believe the only notion of order is to let things happen, to let them get worse. In the grip of this abdication of responsibility, he rescues a Bosnian child from an orphanage, setting up intolerable conflicts in himself: conflicts which lead him to the belief that if children are tormented enough by adults, they will eventually overthrow them. "And might they not have a chance of doing this especially in times of war... Might they not become, that is, like those bacteria that learn to survive under stress — that produce mutations necessary for survival in terms of stress?"

Two extraordinary images of good and evil conclude a novel which, if it resolves a few of them, raises many potent and pressing questions about our moral landscape; and which, for its evocation of modern consciousness alone — traumatised and inundated by information — is a fine achievement.

## Yet built with stones of law

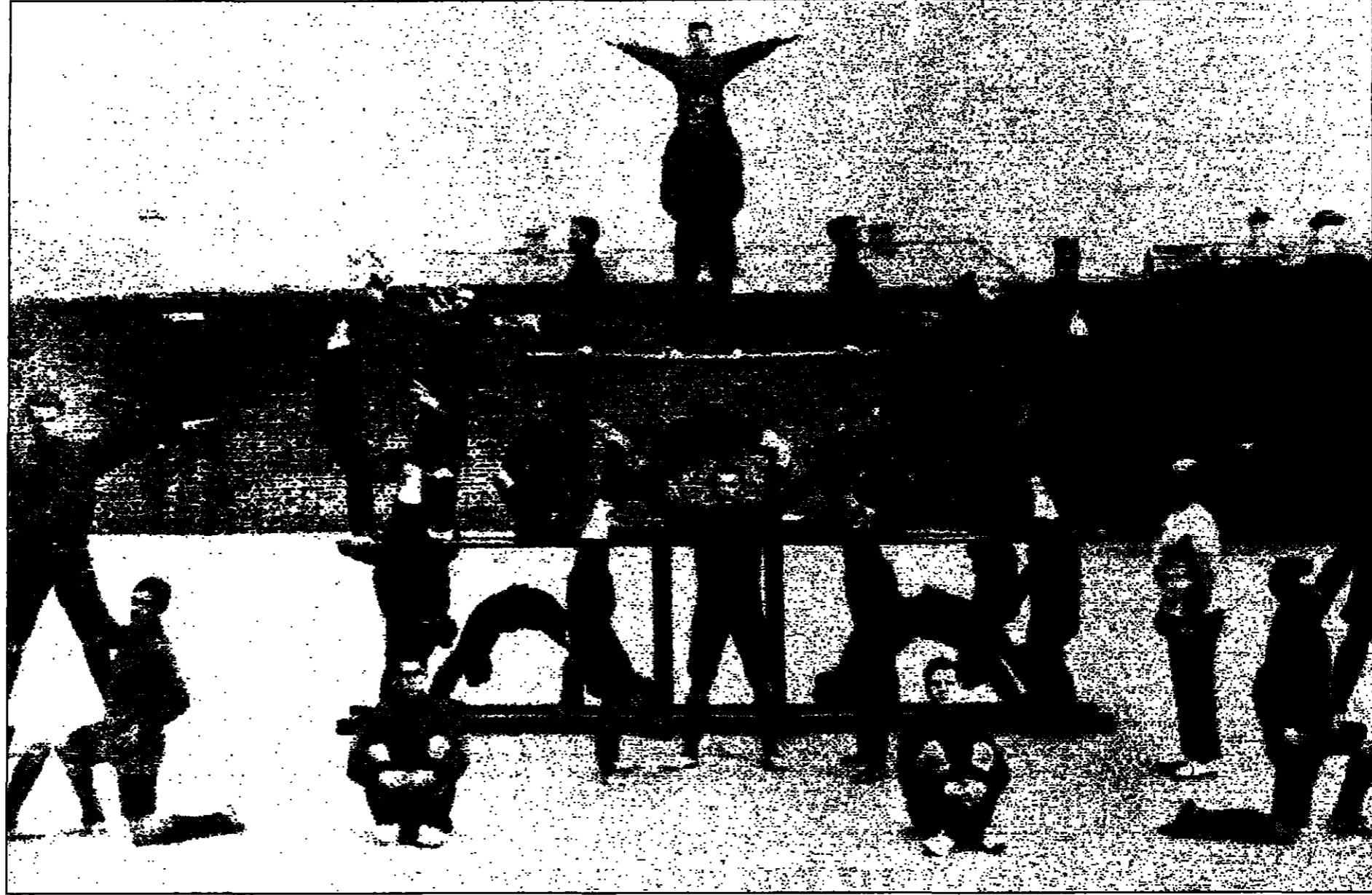
Vivien Stern

**THE OXFORD HISTORY OF THE PRISON**  
Edited by Norval Morris and David J. Rothman  
OUP, £25  
**THE INVISIBLE CRYING TREE**  
By Tom Shannon and Christopher Morgan  
Doubleday, £9.99

understandably. The modern prison is said to have been invented there in the 1820s, with competition between the systems in New York and Pennsylvania. In New York the prisoners slept in single cells, but worked and ate together although they were forbidden to communicate by word or glance. In Pennsylvania prisoners were in solitary confinement the whole time. The New York system won the day, because it was cheaper.

Now nearly two centuries later, the United States is one of the world's greatest consumers of imprisonment, doubling its use between 1970 and 1980 and more than doubling it again between 1981 and 1995. One and a half million Americans are currently in prison. The chances of a young black man in America going to prison are greater than his chances of going on to higher education.

Britain, too, now seems set on a course of ever-increasing



A gymnastics display at a Borstal, c. 1920: in attempting to foster a sense of personal responsibility, Borstals took public schools as their model (from *The Oxford History of the Prison*)

imprisonment. Yet, as all the contributors point out, as a method of crime control, prison does not work. So why do we keep on believing in it and demanding it be provided? The answer, according to one of the distinguished editors, Norval Morris, seems to be that imprisonment has become the "plaything of politics". So politicians build more prisons, using money that would otherwise go on schools and hospitals. The chances of going on to higher education.

The breadth of history and wide-ranging theory set out in

the Oxford volume are richly complemented by another very worthwhile and moving book, *The Invisible Crying Tree*. Through the Prison Reform Trust, a farmer, Christopher Morgan, became the penfriend of Tom Shannon, a life-sentence prisoner, and the book consists of their year-long exchange of letters.

The farmer writes of his family, combine harvesters, the common agricultural policy, the weather. The prisoner writes of brewing illicit alcohol, wrapping excrement in newspaper and throwing it out of the window, drug stabbings, hunger strikes, being in the segregation unit, listening to Mozart. It is a blast of reality for those who think prisons run according to rules and regulations. It should be required reading for people who still think prison is a holiday camp.

Both these books throw light on a major social question. To understand the prison of today we need to know its history.

Imposing imprisonment as the main punishment for crime did not start until the early 19th century. Before that,

compensation or physical punishments such as execution or mutilation were the norm and they were then replaced by transportation to the New World.

Punishments, then, are not static. There is change and development. Do we really intend to carry on beyond the millennium with a system that costs so much, causes so much pain, and does so little good?

**Vivien Stern** is the Director of the National Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders

## Lust turned all to ashes

Anthony Storr

**SECRET LIFE**  
An Autobiography  
By Michael Ryan  
Bloomsbury, £3.99 paperback original



Ryan: unusually honest

with girls, men, and the family dog, are scarcely more enthralling.

What is amazing, and largely unexplained, is how so philistine a boy is transformed into a poet who taught at Princeton. It seems probable that an eccentric professor at Notre Dame with a gift for talent-spotting was responsible. However that may be, Ryan was fired in 1981.

What this unusually

honest book does, and does very well, is to demonstrate one possible outcome of early sexual molestation. If sex is the only thing in life which makes a boy and a man feel valued, he is likely to become a compulsive Don Juan. The accompanying publicity sheet informs us that "In 1990 he realised that his sex addiction was out of control and joined a programme along with other addicts to cure his insatiable need for sex." It would be interesting to know the outcome of his treatment.

## Hope blooms in the desert

Samantha Weinberg

**IMAGININGS OF SAND**  
By André Brink  
Secker & Warburg, £15.99



André Brink: a many-layered portrait of a changing land

in search of her shadow; her daughter Samuel, and so on down the tree to Ouma and finally to Kristen.

The magical stories Ouma tells hovering on that uncertain line between believability and fantasy, cover the time from when the Afrikaners first settled in South Africa to the present day. Kristen sits by Ouma's coffin, which the old woman has insisted on climb-

African chess game. Here are the Afrikaners, afraid of losing the land they loved and "paid for in blood and shit", the liberals, the wise old black people, the disaffected youth, the smart new politicians, the bigoted old ones, the hawkers for whom the election will change nothing: "I'll still have trouble selling vegetables."

Each has his stance, and if I have a criticism of this book, it is that some of these caricatures lack life; they appear to have been created only as a mouthpiece for a sharply-defined set of views.

**B**ut this hardly mars a wonderful book. Like the history of South Africa itself, it has many layers, and also many truths. It is about discord and reconciliation between Kristen and her downtrodden sister Anna, between Kristen and the country she had sworn never to return to, between new and old, black and white, dreams and reality.

It is like a rite of passage; after reading it, one is well-placed to contemplate what might be in the South Africa of tomorrow. As one of its characters, an old ANC warrior, says on being asked why he is here: "Write a new chapter, yes. Close the old books, no. We can't imagine the future by pretending to forget the past."

**Samantha Weinberg's novel, *Last of the Pirates*, is published by Jonathan Cape**

## Origami journey

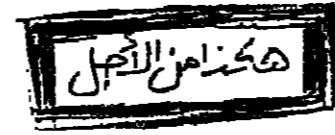
Kate Hubbard

**DRIVETIME**  
By James Meek  
Polygon, £8.99 pb original

In Northampton he is arrested and accused of perverting and cruelty by an animal rights activist. In Salerno he is left abandoned, penniless and at the mercy of an Italian family, who put him to work making cream horns. In Russia he endures a spell in a mental hospital, where both Mike and McStrachan appear to have been former inmates; after being mistaken for a local Edinburgh councillor he collects an antique egg from "down south".

So begins a nightmarish journey, and not just geographically, along the motorways of Europe, with the elusive egg and the promised land of Glasgow ever receding.

THIS is a novel where disturbing coincidences, improbable connections and cases of mistaken identity are rife. But although its humour leans towards the labours of Meek, it has a gift for the surreal throwaway image. It is rather as though David Lynch had been let loose on the set of a drawing room comedy. There will be readers who find this peripatetic fantasy too wacky, but they may still admire the dexterity with which Meek juggles his shifting characters and ties up the ends of his narrative.



## Angel in a gospel of hate

**I**t is a sad paradox that even though Jesus preached a gospel of love, Christians have often felt justified in cultivating a righteous hatred of those whom they believe to be in error. Crusaders slaughtered Muslims and Jews; the orthodox have killed heretics, and for centuries Catholics and Protestants have vilified and persecuted one another. Frequently Christians accuse the "other" side of being in league with Satan.

In this erudite and illuminating study, Elaine Pagels has traced this tendency back to the New Testament. She argues persuasively that belief in Satan originated in certain Jewish sects, whose members denounced their fellow Jews as the sons of darkness. The Hebrew Bible, however, has no conception of the Devil. Satan is simply a member of the angelic court whose task is to obstruct human activity, sometimes — as in the case of Balaam — in a way that is beneficial to humanity.

But later, during the troubled years of the 2nd and 1st centuries BC, radical Jews told stories about angels who had fallen from grace, basing these tales on obscure and ambiguous scriptural texts. When they asked "How could God's own angels become His enemy?" they were also asking, in effect, how their fellow Jews, who did not share their religious passions, could have turned away from God. Such sects as the Essenes saw themselves as a righteous elite at war with the demonic "powers of darkness" who had infected the rest of the Jewish community.

Pagels shows that the first Christians shared this vision of a universe divided between God's people and Satan's. Her penetrating critique reveals a stream of pure hatred running through each one of the four Gospels. The demons of the New Testament, which liberal Christians prefer to ignore, are central to the story of Jesus. The four evangelists all revile their Jewish contemporaries, who refused to accept Jesus as the Messiah, as apostates in Satan's thrall.

In each successive Gospel the Jews become increasingly demonic, while Pontius Pilate, who was renowned for his ruthlessness and cruelty, becomes ever more sympathetic. Mark, who was writing in



Lucifer and Satan attending the jaws of Hell: from the *Livre de la Déablerie*, printed in Paris (1568)

**Karen Armstrong**

**THE ORIGIN OF SATAN**  
A Social History.  
By Elaine Pagels  
Viking, £20

about AD 70, shows Jesus battling with Satan at the outset of His career and insists that the Jews forced the Romans to execute Him. Some 15 years later, Matthew denounces the Pharisees, the Jewish leaders of his day, as "Sons of Hell" destined for the fire reserved for the Devil and his angels.

Lucy, the only gentle evangelist, goes further. He suggests that the Jews are allied with "the powers of darkness". He has Satan entering into Judas Iscariot and setting in motion the events that would culminate in the Crucifixion. Finally, writing in about AD 100, John shows Satan becoming incarnate in human form: first in Judas, then in the Jewish authorities, and lastly in "the Jews", who form the armies of hell in ceaseless conflict with the forces of light.

Besides teaching the importance of love, therefore, the Gospels laid

conspiracy against humankind. The pagan gods became devils in their minds. Greek and Roman culture was now demonic, and teachers such as Origen undermined the religious sanction for the State. Finally, heretics who did not share the opinions of the Establishment were denounced as Satan's agents.

Pagels does not deny that many Christians have transcended this sorry legacy. Many, however, have not: they see no incompatibility between the gospel of love and a righteous denigration of people from other ethnic, religious or political groups. Only by acknowledging this tragic flaw, which Pagels's important book has shown to be deeply embedded in their tradition, can Christians hope to correct it and avoid the hatred that their faith has so often tragically inspired in the past.

## Wodswod's coarser pleasures



A contemporary portrait presumed to be of Annette Vallon

**Robert Nye**  
The only lines in his *Descriptive Sketches* which could possibly be read as directly erotic — lines which the later Wordsworth was most careful to suppress.

The novel goes wrong when Baldwin has William and Annette "married before God".

by a non-juring priest in a cowshed. There is no evidence whatsoever that Wordsworth loved Annette, let alone married her.

All that is known for certain is that she bore his child a month or so after he had fled away to England, and

helplessly, afflicted" (her next book will be about psychopathology of the 1950s).

HOWEVER that might be, her labour was worthwhile for the bibliography alone. As is the fashion, this is not a list but a closely-printed 90-page essay, chockful of books to seek out (galling how many American books, past and present are unavailable here). One is grateful to learn of the early novels by Billy Walker's collaborator, Charles Bracken, and the memoirs by the singer Ethel Waters; glad too, that somebody else enjoys the witty novels by Katharine Brush; but puzzled that she overlooks a masterpiece which encapsulates the era — that semi-rhyming, free-verse tale of drunkenness and debauchery, Joseph Moncure March's 1923 *The Wild Party* (now available in an elegant Picador volume, illustrated by Art Spiegelman).

## Afflicted by the unnatural city

**Christopher Hawtree**

**TERRIBLE HONESTY**  
By Ann Douglas  
Picador, £20

bites than all of Europe and gives an alarming catalogue of alcoholic authors.

She admits that this book took two decades — owing to her own alcoholism, which has made her alert for such self-destructive creation as Scott Fitzgerald's.

Early on, apparently, Alcoholics Anonymous took as its Bible *The Varieties of Religious Experience* by William

Nigel Hawkes on a vision of man-made catastrophe

## Once again, the end is nigh

**I**n the history of ideas, a long struggle has been fought between stasis and catastrophe. The Old Testament gave catastrophe a running start, with its emphasis on flood, plague and pestilence, but in the 18th century along came James Hutton, a Scottish physician who declared that the Earth had always been much as it seemed. Every feature on its rumpled surface could be explained by the infinitely slow processes of geology, operating over unimaginable stretches of time.

In spite of the efforts of arch-catastrophist Georges Cuvier, who claimed that life was wiped out regularly by floods, Hutton's uniformitarianism soon became the dominant idea. Darwin believed that fossil evidence of past catastrophes was merely an index of that record's incompleteness. An attempt earlier this century to overthrow uniformitarianism by Immanuel Velikovsky, author of *Worlds of Collision*, was easily seen off and the scientific community cheered. But the celebrations were premature.

In the past 20 years it has become clear that catastrophes really have happened and that evolution, far from being a steady rise from single-celled bacteria to Masters of Balliol, has been a rollercoaster. In the Cambrian explosion half a billion years ago, a huge number of new species emerged in just a few million years, a burst of creativity unmatched before or since. And the fossil record, *pace* Darwin, shows a string of catastrophes of which the most recent was the elimination of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago.

Richard Leakey and Roger Lewin now want us to believe that the five recorded catastrophes are being succeeded by a sixth, for which the human race is responsible. The thesis is propounded in a book that is by turns intimate and academic, passages of first-person narration interspersed with an excellent account of recent work in evolution and ecology; though the two elements do not always gel.

The claim that man's dominion has made life harder for countless other species is not exactly new, but the evidence is superbly marshalled and undeniably persuasive. The extinction of a range of

**THE SIXTH EXTINCTION**  
Biodiversity and its Survival  
By Richard Leakey and Roger Lewin  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £18.99

**ANCESTRAL PASSION**  
The Leakey Family and the Quest for Humankind's Beginnings  
By Virginia Morell  
Simon & Schuster, \$30

not God-given but the consequence of accident, does change matter so much?

To most people, the wilderness has no moral authority. They regard the claim made by the ecologist Les Kaufman that "a piece of the American soul died along with the passenger pigeon, plains buffalo and American chestnut" — quoted approvingly here — as a self-indulgence worthy of Pseud's Corner. Mankind may have to learn to run the planet like a garden, but most people prefer gardens to wilderness, anyway. The problem is that managing ecosystems is so complex a task that the attempt is doomed to failure. Small wonder that the book leaves one with a sense of impotence.

Virginia Morell's account of the Leakey family is a labour of love, for she makes it clear that this is the recent history of palaeontology told from the Leakey viewpoint. The approach has its drawbacks, because the field is riven by dispute and personal animosity, and the American palaeontologists Donald Johanson and Tim White, for years at loggerheads with the Leakeys, declined to be interviewed.

But she is at pains to be fair and the book bulges with detail. Louis Leakey, the founder of the clan, ultimately triumphed after his first finds had been ridiculed and his academic standing destroyed. To him and his wife Mary, Richard's mother, is owed a large part of the credit for establishing that Africa was the cradle of mankind. But he was impulsive, made enemies easily, and never quite won the support of more conservative colleagues. When he died, the family dallied over placing a headstone on his grave and when they got round to it, found that one of Louis' many lady friends had already done it without even asking. "The nerve!" says Richard.

The story is a compelling one, and very well told. It sheds light on a field where a powerful personality may be as valuable as a good mind: a science that is still in some ways pre-scientific.

The Times/Dillons lecture by Richard and Leakey will take place in London on February 12. Details and ticket coupon page 33



The Leakeys with Melvin Payne (right) of the National Geographic Society in 1972

ful friends to protect them — not least Richard Leakey himself, who raised the plight of the African elephant to worldwide prominence.

But everywhere smaller animals, insects and birds are disappearing, or so the ecologists claim. What, if anything, can be done about it is a different question.

**A**s Leakey and Lewin make clear, ecosystems are fragile, unpredictable, and made up of a range of species which owe their presence largely to chance. Given the pressure on space, even the best-intentioned of human societies are going to continue to wreak havoc. As the existing balance of species is

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THE TIMES THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8 1996

TRAVEL NEWS 37

## Concorde flyers snuff out BA smoking ban

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

WELL-HEELED Concorde passengers have demanded that British Airways set aside at least eight seats for passengers who want to smoke.

From May 1 British Airways is to ban smoking on flights to all United States destinations and to the Caribbean — journeys which can last up to ten hours. But after pressure from supersonic passengers, two rows of seats on Concorde flights to New

York and Barbados, taking only a little over three hours, will remain available to cigarette smokers. The airline has, however, drawn the line at cigars, which will remain banned in flight.

"Our passengers decided that they wanted to retain the right to choose for themselves," a spokesman said. "We always listen to our customers and Concorde passengers clearly did not want smoking banned altogether. Perhaps they are older, or more

tolerant, than the average passenger and have grown up in a culture which is not so against smoking."

A return fare between Heathrow and New York on Concorde, which has 100 seats, is £5,606. During detailed market research into smoking on board, BA was stunned by the vociferous reaction of Concorde passengers, who made it plain that they were not prepared to be dictated to — even though most do not smoke themselves.

All BA flights within Britain went non-smoking in 1988, followed by more than 400 European flights and services to Australia, New Zealand and Canada in 1994.

• Air France's recent decision to re-time its eastbound transatlantic Concorde service spells good news for British travellers. At present, travellers flying from New York to London or Manchester are forced to overnight in Paris because there is no same-day connection (although there

are good connections westbound from the UK). But from March 31, Air France's Concorde departs New York at the earlier time of 8am which, allowing for a short transfer at Paris Charles de Gaulle, will enable travellers to the UK to be there by evening. Air France also undercut the direct flight fare. The BA London to New York Concorde flight costs £5,606 return, and discounts are rare. Air France supersonic flights are available for less than £3,000 return.

## Hotels to raise cash for Unicef

By DAVID CHURCHILL

INTER-CONTINENTAL Hotels this week announced plans to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary in the spring by appealing to business travellers who stay in its 170 hotels worldwide to make a special donation to Unicef, the United Nations Children's charity, which also celebrates its golden jubilee this year.

Inter-Continental is asking its guests, 70 per cent of whom stay on business, to round up their bill by about \$10 as a donation to Unicef's work.

Such a donation would, says Inter-Continental, provide enough vitamin A tablets for 300 Third-World children to be protected from blindness. A \$20 donation would provide clean water and sanitation for a child for a year.

The hotel chain hopes to raise at least \$1 million (£650,000) from the idea, but would like to generate up to \$5 million during its anniversary year.

Guests will be asked when leaving their hotel if they want to make a donation which will be included on their bill; if they prefer, a separate credit card donation can be made. Staff have been trained not to pressurise guests, especially those who frequently stay in an Inter-Continental hotel.

Robert Collier, joint managing director of Inter-Continental, said yesterday that the campaign was "aimed at being helpful, not coercive, and is being fully backed by our staff who are holding their own fundraising events during the year".

Robert Smith, Unicef's executive director, pointed out that the charity's work over the last half century "had helped to reduce global child mortality from 25 million a year to 12.5 million, although that figure is still too high".

While Inter-Continental is the first hotel chain to organise such a scheme on behalf of Unicef, British Airways has for the past two years operated a system called Change For Good, which encourages its passengers to donate their foreign coins and notes to Unicef.

The scheme, which initially operated only on long-haul flights, has just been extended to cover European short-haul flights out of Manchester and Birmingham. BA says that more than £2 million has so far been raised for Unicef.

The airline's surveys indicated that the 200 million or so international air travellers each year are left with about \$40 million in non-convertible foreign coins and low value notes. This, it says, is usually put into a "safe place", and promptly forgotten.

• Unicef: 0345 312312.

## British find France too expensive

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

FEWER than one in five British holidaymakers who went to France last year plan to return in 1996 because of the surprisingly high cost of living, according to a survey published this week.

France is perceived to offer the worst value for money and to be far more expensive than expected by 45 per cent of those who visited in 1995, says American Express.

On the other hand those who spent their holidays in Australia, New Zealand and Cyprus found them to be less expensive than they had anticipated.

British holidaymakers spent more than £13 billion abroad last year, of which 44 per cent went on meals out, sightseeing accounts for the second largest amount of holiday spending, at 22 per cent, and drinking is third, at 14 per cent. About 20 per cent of men of all age groups said that drinking was their greatest expense on holiday while for women the figure was only 9 per cent.

## Travellers seek exotic ideas for millennium

By TONY DAWE AND RACHAEL JOLLEY

THE travel industry is preparing to face up to one of its toughest challenges: the premature enthusiasm of seasoned travellers and avid partygoers to celebrate the millennium in style.

Special brochures will start appearing later this year, hotels are already trying to sift thousands of applications for 1999. New Year's Eve parties and organised companies have laid spectacular plans. However, travel experts are attacking the industry for a lack of originality.

"The trouble is that all the best hotels are always full at new year and need to do little more than arrange a bigger party than usual," says Ann Scott, a leading travel consultant. "As far as exotic holidays are concerned, there is nothing new about a balloon safari over Africa or swimming with dolphins in Florida."

The most original ideas so far include seeing in the millennium twice, either by flying Concorde to New York, or by cruising in the South Pacific. A nine-day voyage will call at Fiji for New Year's Eve before crossing the international dateline to catch the party in the Cook Islands.

The dawn of the new millennium will rise on Chatham Island, an outpost of New Zealand which is the first place to see the sunrise each day. This stormy and inhospitable spot looks out as a party location. However, the idyllic Vavau in Tonga, just west of the dateline, will host a \$3,775-a-head (£2,450) party with entertainers such as Jean-Michel Jarre.

Closer to home, the Savoy Hotel in London already has

## Soccer strips to be sold in-flight

By STEVE KEENAN

BRITAIN'S third largest charter airline, Air 2000, is to start selling Newcastle United football shirts on board flights from the North East from April. And P&O European Ferries is also experimenting with the team strips of four Premiership clubs on its cross-Channel ferries.

The moves come as transport companies seek to improve their proportion of tax-free sales, ahead of the 1999 scrapping of duty-free allowances on goods such as alcohol and cigarettes.

Air 2000 has also invested

£500,000 in an on-board computer system, designed to speed up credit-card transactions, improve tracking of sales and inventory, and read bar-codes on goods.

In trials, the system has increased sales by 5 per cent.

The airline is hoping to improve on last year's on-board sales of £20 million, which averaged just £5 per head.

Air 2000 will distribute shopping magazines and tell passengers of special deals. As well as team shirts relevant to

the departure airport, the new range of goods includes exclusive perfumes.

With duty-free sales due to be scrapped, ferries, airports and airlines are placing more emphasis on tax-free goods such as toys, gifts and perfumes.

"We have to get away from the concept that the only items people want to buy in the air are alcohol and cigarettes," said Air 2000's managing director Bill Kirkwood.

"The buying of duty-free

goods also tends to be focused at the airport. We are telling customers that buying on board can be more comfortable and cost-effective.

The average on-board spend in the past couple of years has been flat. We have to persuade people that shopping in the air can be part of a holiday experience."

P&O now carries 11,000 tax-free product lines on its 23 ships. Duty and tax-free sales accounted for 30 per cent of its £600 million revenue last year, with tax-free a growing proportion of the total.

Travel the world in Weekend

Romantic weekends in Britain and Paris

Greece and the Greek islands

How to cope with half-term

Jan Morris on the Everyman Guide to Paris

## Europe's trains challenge airlines

By RAYMOND ATHERTON

MANY British executives continue to take the plane rather than the train when travelling to or within Europe in the misguided belief that flying saves time. But this is not always the case thanks to newer trains and better scheduling. There is now often little difference between the two on many medium-length journeys, yet a first-class rail ticket can cost up to 75 per cent less than a one-way flexible air fare.

As a further bonus, rail passengers avoid taxi fares to and from airports and tickets are free of airport taxes.

An executive planning a short-stay midweek trip from London to either Paris or Brussels would pay as little as £59 or £69 return by Eurostar in standard or £155 in first-class compared to the cheapest equivalent air fares of more than £200. Even when based on flexible first-class tariffs, Eurostar still undercut business-class fares to Paris or Brussels by more than 15 per cent.

But the greatest savings are within mainland Europe. A first-class passenger taking the TGV trains south to Lyons in two hours or Mar-

sellies in four hours and 30 minutes," says Peter Mills, the French Railways spokesman. "Later this year a further link will enable the TGVs to run from Lille-Nantes in three hours and Lille-Bordeaux in four hours," he says.

Europe's current leaders in high-speed rail (trains running at up to 186mph) are France and Germany. Germany's ICE trains run on purpose-built 186mph lines such as the Hamburg-Frankfurt-Munich one. They also make forays over conventional track on routes such as Frankfurt-Berlin and Frankfurt-Basel-Zurich. France's famous TGV trains run over long stretches of 186mph track south to Lyons, Geneva, Marilles and Nice, west to Brittany and southwest to Bordeaux and Biarritz. And the Paris bypass line (the rail equivalent of London's M25 motorway) means UK passengers heading beyond Paris no longer need to change in the French capital.

"Passengers arriving on Eurostar at the new Lille Europe station can connect with TGV trains south to Lyons in two hours or Mar-

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40

minutes," says Peter Mills, the French Railways spokesman. "Later this year a further link will enable the TGVs to run from Lille-Nantes in three hours and Lille-Bordeaux in four hours," he says.

From June there will be a dramatic reduction in the time taken to cross the Alps by train. Pendolino "tilting trains" (made by Fiat of Italy) will cut an hour off the journey to Milan from Basel, Berne, Geneva and Zürich. While from October there will be a further reduction in the journey time between Paris, Lyons and Milan/Turin.

But rail travel does have some drawbacks: the booking systems are old-fashioned, so changing your ticket can be a hassle. And even buying a ticket in the UK can be a chore because few agents are rail-minded, although matters are improving. French Railways has opened "Rail Shops" in London, Manchester and Glasgow while London-based European Rail and Hogg Robinson are two agents now meeting demand with dedicated rail ticket offices.

Brussels pays £66, against the air fare of £189. Frankfurt-Zürich costs £107 by rail compared to £217 by air. Zürich-Milan by air is £273 whereas the first-class rail fare is £70.

It is estimated that Star Trek, which has spawned seven films and three other television series — is now being screened somewhere on earth 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

• Star Trek — The Exhibition, until March 10 at The Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7. Admission £10.95 for adults, £2.95 children and concessions; combined ticket £8 and £4.50.

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## Drink-related death outwith insurance

**Dhak v Insurance Company of North America (UK) Ltd**

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Aldous and Sir John Balcombe

Judgment February 6

An insured person who took a calculated risk and embarked deliberately on a course of conduct which led to some bodily injury could not claim under a personal accident insurance policy if the bodily injury was the natural and direct consequence of the course of conduct.

The Court of Appeal so stated dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Mr. Kashmi Singh, from the decision of Judge Malcolm Lee, QC, sitting as the mercantile judge at Birmingham on February 28, 1994, whereby he ordered that the plaintiff's claim against the defendants, the Insurance Company of North America (UK) Ltd, should be dismissed.

The deceased was a ward sister at Birmingham General Hospital. She suffered severe back injury as a result of lifting a heavy patient and had a short period of treatment as an in-patient in hospital and then went back to work. She continued to suffer pain and began drinking alcohol in the hope of relieving the pain.

On October 28, 1986, while recovering at home from influenza she died and a post mortem showed that the blood/alcohol concentration in her body was very high. The verdict recorded at the inquest was death by misadventure.

The deceased had a personal accident policy which specified that benefits would be payable for "bodily injury resulting in death or

injury within 12 months of the accident occurring during the period of insurance and caused directly or indirectly by the accident".

The plaintiff obtained letters of administration and made a claim under the policy. Liability was repudiated by the defendants and the plaintiff sued them.

Mr. Michael Spence, QC and Mr. Richard Harte for the plaintiff; Mr. Crawford Lindsay, QC and Mr. David Pitman for the defendants.

**LODGE JUSTICE NEILL** said that to bring the claim within the terms of the insurance policy the plaintiff had to establish (i) that the deceased sustained a bodily injury (ii) that the bodily injury resulted in death and (iii) that the bodily injury was caused by accidental means.

An important issue at the trial was whether the deceased died from the toxic effects of the ingestion of alcohol or whether she died through asphyxiation. It might be that it was for that reason that the question whether the inhalation of foreign matter which led to asphyxiation did or did not involve some bodily injury was not fully explored when the three pathologists gave their evidence.

Accordingly, in considering the questions whether the deceased suffered a bodily injury and whether that injury resulted in death one had to bear that point in mind.

The judge had held that "the immediate mechanism of death was asphyxia caused by the regurgitation of the contents of the stomach of the deceased in her lungs" and that there was no bodily injury resulting in death.

The defendants supported the judge's findings.

His Lordship was quite satisfied that the deceased's death resulted

from bodily injury within the meaning of the policy for, inter alia, the following reasons:

(1) The defendants were prepared to admit that in certain circumstances the swallowing of a peanut causing asphyxiation and death might involve bodily injury. But in such an event the mechanism of death would be similar to that in the present case.

The blockage of the windpipe would lead to asphyxia and after a short time to congestion of the lungs. That would be followed or accompanied by petechial haemorrhages and the absence of oxygen would then cause damage to the brain by anaesthesia.

2 Bodily injury would often involve some external trauma. But, in the absence of express words, his Lordship saw no reason why bodily injury should be restricted to some injury to the exterior of the body.

The introduction of some foreign matter into the body or into a particular part of the body which caused a harmful physiological change in the structure of the body could, in his Lordship's view, lead to bodily injury.

It would be remembered that "bodily injury" was defined in the policy as "bodily injury caused by accidental means". It was argued for the plaintiff that the deceased's death was plainly an accident.

His Lordship had come to the conclusion that it had not been established that the bodily injury to the deceased was caused by accidental means within the meaning of the policy. In reaching that conclusion his Lordship had been persuaded that the words "caused by accidental means" were a clear indication that it was the cause of the injury to which the court may be referred.

His Lordship would put the matter as follows:

Where an insured embarked deliberately on a course of conduct which led to some bodily injury one had to consider the following questions:

(a) Did the insured intend to inflict some bodily injury to himself?

(b) Did the insured take a

calculated risk that if he continued with that course of conduct he might sustain some bodily injury?

(c) Was some bodily injury the natural and direct consequence of the course of conduct?

(d) Did some fortuitous cause intervene?

In the present case there was no suggestion whatever that the deceased intended any bodily injury to herself. One had therefore to examine the other three questions. At the same time one must take account of all the circumstances including the state of knowledge or presumed state of knowledge of the insured.

In considering what could be foreseen one must apply the standard of foresight of the reasonable person with the attributes of the insured.

His Lordship had come to the conclusion that the judge was justified in finding that the deceased must have been well aware of the consequences and dangers of drinking alcohol to excess and that she must have been taken to have foreseen what might happen in the event of someone drinking to excess. She was a ward sister with many years of experience as a nurse.

His Lordship felt quite unable to say that the deceased's injury and death were the direct result of some fortuitous cause. It was the direct consequence of her drinking to excess.

Indeed, his Lordship felt bound to say that for someone with her knowledge and experience she must be regarded as having taken a calculated risk of sustaining some bodily injury.

Lord Justice Aldous and Sir John Balcombe agreed.

Solicitors: Graham Pearce & Co, Solihull; Barlow Lyde Gilbert.

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## Companies can pay salary in return for shares

**Parlett v Guppys (Bridport) Ltd and Others**

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Rock and Lord Justice Aldous

Judgment February 11

The provisions in section 151 of the Companies Act 1985 permitting a company, from giving financial assistance for the acquisition of its own shares, to an agreement with the plaintiff in person, Mr. Michael Todd as attorney, curtesy Mr. Michael Templeman for the defendants.

**LODGE JUSTICE NOURSE** said that to bring the claim within the terms of the insurance policy the plaintiff had to establish (i) that the deceased sustained a bodily injury (ii) that the bodily injury resulted in death and (iii) that the bodily injury was caused by accidental means.

An important issue at the trial was whether the deceased died from the toxic effects of the ingestion of alcohol or whether she died through asphyxiation. It might be that it was for that reason that the question whether the inhalation of foreign matter which led to asphyxiation did or did not involve some bodily injury was not fully explored when the three pathologists gave their evidence.

Accordingly, in considering the questions whether the deceased suffered a bodily injury and whether that injury resulted in death one had to bear that point in mind.

The judge had held that "the immediate mechanism of death was asphyxia caused by the regurgitation of the contents of the stomach of the deceased in her lungs" and that there was no bodily injury resulting in death.

The defendants supported the judge's findings.

His Lordship was quite satisfied that the deceased's death resulted

from bodily injury within the meaning of the policy for, inter alia, the following reasons:

(1) The defendants were prepared to admit that in certain circumstances the swallowing of a peanut causing asphyxiation and death might involve bodily injury. But in such an event the mechanism of death would be similar to that in the present case.

The blockage of the windpipe would lead to asphyxia and after a short time to congestion of the lungs. That would be followed or accompanied by petechial haemorrhages and the absence of oxygen would then cause damage to the brain by anaesthesia.

2 Bodily injury would often involve some external trauma. But, in the absence of express words, his Lordship saw no reason why bodily injury should be restricted to some injury to the exterior of the body.

The introduction of some foreign matter into the body or into a particular part of the body which caused a harmful physiological change in the structure of the body could, in his Lordship's view, lead to bodily injury.

It was common ground between counsel that a proximate cause meant the effective or dominant cause. The point at issue was the application of the law to the facts.

The submission of the plaintiff was that the excessive intake of alcohol was a part of the background but not the effective cause of the injury.

His Lordship had come to the conclusion that the judge was justified in finding that the deceased must have been well aware of the consequences and dangers of drinking alcohol to excess and that she must have been taken to have foreseen what might happen in the event of someone drinking to excess. She was a ward sister with many years of experience as a nurse.

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only if Guppys Estates participation in the agreement caused a material reduction in its net assets, it had given unlawful financial assistance for the acquisition by the sons of some of its shares, contrary to section 151(1).

The defendants submitted that when the financial assistance consisted of the "assumption" of a liability to make future payments, a company from giving financial assistance for the acquisition of its own shares were in sections 151 to 153 of the Companies Act 1985. Their complaint in contrast to the relative simplicity of then pre-1985 section 54 of the Companies Act 1948, was that in 1985 Parliament had complicated the regime in certain respects, more especially in its application to private companies.

One such complication was that when a company transferred its net assets to another, which did not reduce the net assets of the relevant company, the Court of Appeal so held in a recent judgment allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Leslie N. Parlett, from a judge of the Queen's Bench Division in Bristol Mercantile Court in June 1994, that an agreement to pay out of the net assets of a company to one of its shareholders in return for that shareholder transferring shares in one of three companies.

That finding was to the effect that the "salary" bonus was immediately payable at the time the agreement was executed, there was no material reduction in the net assets of the relevant company.

The Court of Appeal so held in a recent judgment allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Leslie N. Parlett, from a judge of the Queen's Bench Division in Bristol Mercantile Court in June 1994, that an agreement to pay out of the net assets of a company to one of its shareholders in return for that shareholder transferring shares in one of three companies.

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That finding was to the effect

Former Great Britain coach makes unexpected return as player

## Sydney Tigers add Hanley to squad for ARL season

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE Australian Rugby League (ARL), which spent £5.5 million on nine British-based players at the height of the inflationary war with Super League last year, yesterday announced that Ellery Hanley, the former Great Britain captain and coach, will be joining Sydney Tigers for the forthcoming ARL season. He will be 35 next month.

Hanley received an initial £250,000 signing-on fee from the ARL and is due a further £200,000 over three years. His last competitive appearance was for Leeds ten months ago. A damaged shoulder, which would have put lesser players out of the game, has undergone extensive repair.

Hanley maintains that he is fit but part of his job description involving junior coaching and marketing may occupy more of his energies than might have been expected of a full-time player. The ARL expected Hanley to compete in the World Sevens last weekend, but he attracted criticism for standing down from a well-beaten Great Britain side.

It was thought that he would fill a senior coaching position at one of the dozen clubs to remain loyal to the ARL in its dispute with the breakaway Super League. However, nothing was seen as suitable, so Hanley was given a playing contract with the former Balmain club, where he had a summer stint eight years ago. Wayne Pearce, the Tigers' coach, said that he intended to use Hanley's experience in a wide range of positions.

Hanley, who is expected to return to Sydney before the season starts, in three weeks, said: "I have fond memories of

my time there in 1988 and am looking forward to helping the Tigers become a top premiership side."

Craig Innes, Hanley's former Leeds colleague and another highly-prized ARL recruit from the British game, had planned to leave Headingley today to join Manly-Warringah, but has been persuaded to stay on, at least until after the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final at the Warrington on Saturday.

As Innes, the New Zealand centre, is under contract at

Martin Offiah, the Wigan and Great Britain rugby league wing, would consider playing rugby union on a short-term contract next winter, subject to his club's agreement, according to Alan McColl, his agent. McColl said yesterday that five union clubs had inquired about Offiah's availability after the Super League season.

News Limited, the Australian arm of the News Corporation, which is the parent company of *The Times*, claims the agreements were signed under duress, are anti-competitive and should be declared void. Whatever Judge Burchett's decision, it will not mark the end of the legal road. Both sides have indicated that, should they lose, they will appeal.

□ A Rugby Football League board of directors' proposal for a change in voting rights was overwhelmingly accepted by a special general meeting of clubs in Leeds yesterday. Super League clubs will receive four votes each, first division clubs two apiece and second division clubs one each. The clubs added a rider that at least 16 of them would have to back any proposal for it to be passed.

Leeds until June and Manly want him immediately, the decision on who benefits from his services appears to be determined for the courts.

Of the remaining recruits, only Hanley and Lee Jackson, the Great Britain hooker, now at Newcastle Knights, have had their futures with the ARL determined. Jonathan Davies, who received a £100,000 signing-on fee, is back in rugby union at Cardiff. Martin Hall, Jason Robinson and Gary Connolly are tied to Wigan for one, two and three years, respectively. Kevin Ellis, a member of a defeated Great Britain sevens entry in Sydney, is only nominally linked

to North Queensland and Steve Hampson, 34, another Britain veteran now at Salford, has still to be allocated a club.

Embarrassment at the sums paid by the ARL extends to the culture of some of those signed up: not that cents prevailed in the ARL's desperate mission to buy players and win kudos in the marathon struggle against Super League, in which it is now isolated from the rest of the rugby league world.

The ARL season starts at the same time as the ten-team Australasian Super League is due to launch on March 1 — the European version begins on March 29 — although the imminent judgment of James Burchett, an Australian federal court judge, on loyalty contracts that the ARL claims clubs signed before switching clubs to Super League, is of more immediate concern.

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Hanley will be taking his formidable skills to Sydney this season in the ARL

## Scotland see no reason to change for Wales

BY MARK SOUTER

SCOTLAND, predictably, named an unchanged rugby union side yesterday to play Wales in the five nations' championship in Cardiff on February 17; but, while selection was automatic after the victory over France last Saturday, Jim Telfer, the team manager, moved quickly to ensure that none of the players would get carried away by the euphoria that greeted that victory.

Telfer told a press conference at Murrayfield yesterday: "I still think that the performance in Ireland was more complete than that against France, because we stuck to our game plan better. I think we showed

inexperience against France, almost to the point of naivety; luckily it wasn't punished. There is a lot of tightening up to do; I feel a lot of the players were doing something which they have never done before."

"Personally, I was worried about the lack of composure, the inability of the players, when they were 16-8 ahead, to go further ahead. France did not impose themselves that much."

Harsh words, perhaps, but, in his own way, Telfer was already indulging in the sort of psychological warfare that is an intrinsic part of modern sport. He was also ensuring that the players in his charge, many of whom were written off a month

ago, keep their feet on the ground in the wake of two subsequent victories.

Telfer is a pragmatist and, as he admitted yesterday, he prefers to look for flaws. "I like working from a position of adversity," he said.

He expressed surprise that the home victory over France, which partially avenged the disappointment of the World Cup, had had such an impact when wins at Murrayfield in 1985 were "run of the mill".

He said: "The manner may have been different, but we should not get carried away by winning at home." Telfer stressed that he was taking nothing away from the players who "work well for each other". More pointedly, he added: "There are no

stars, as yet. They are still on a learning curve and, as long as they stick to that, the better."

Looking to the challenge of Wales, Telfer said that he had been especially impressed by Robert Howley, the scrum half who made his debut against England, a player whom he likened to Joost van der Westhuizen, the South African who almost singlehandedly destroyed Scotland at Murrayfield in 1994.

He believes that Wales would have gained more from the international at Twickenham last Saturday than England, who appeared riven by internal strife. "They [Wales] will be a completely different team than France," he said. "It is a new side

and they will make life difficult for us. They are very fit and work for each other, they seem to have no inhibitions, some of them are not old enough even to have nerves."

With a possible grand slam showdown against England in a month's time on the horizon, Telfer likened the match in Cardiff to a semi-final... "and everyone hates to lose semi-finals," he said.

SCOTLAND: R J Shepherd (Merton); C A John (Merton), S Hastings (Warrington), I C Jardine (Salford), G J Smith (Salford), G J Smith (Salford), G Townend (Northampton), B W Radford (Merton); D J Wilson (Bath), K D McMenamin (Stringer County), P H Wright (Boroughmuir), R J Waller (Warrington), G J Smith (Salford), D J Wilson (Dagenham), G J Wilson (Newcastle), I R Smith (Gloucester), E W Peters (Bath). Replacements: K M Logan (Stringer County), C M Murray (Edinburgh), G A McLean (Warrington), S Murray (Edinburgh), J A Hay (Hawick).

## McRae aims to join rallying's all-time greats

Oliver Holt meets a driver determined not to dwell on the glories of last year



It is nearly three months since Colin McRae won the world rally championship, but it does not seem to have changed him. He has not developed a taste for fancy jewellery, he has not mastered the art of the soundbite for the media who crowd around him, he still gets his mum to do his ironing whenever he can and he wants to win just as badly as ever.

McRae begins the defence of his crown in Karlstad tomorrow on the first day of the Swedish rally. Some have suggested that his motivation may not be what it was because he has already claimed the sport's biggest prize. Others, including Carlos Sainz, his arch-rival, have predicted that his rivals will try to make it especially difficult for him to repeat his success.

I know what it is like trying to defend a title," Sainz, who was involved in a bitter battle for the championship with McRae last year, said. "There is no doubt Colin will be a marked man. When you are world champion, everyone is out to beat you. The pressure on Colin to continue his winning streak will be tremendous. Everyone will be expecting him to keep delivering the goods."

McRae, 27, has reacted to all the speculation with his usual sang-froid. Yesterday, he warmed up for the rally in the frozen wastes of northern Sweden by clowns around on a skidoo.

His responses to the doubters were characteristically short and to the point. He wants more, not less. "In many ways, I think the

rougher gravel rallies suit me a lot better, but I went head-to-head with Carlos on tarmac last season in Catalunya so I don't even have any hang-ups about that any more," he said.

"Nothing has really changed from last season. I have been too busy testing and doing a team tour to the Far East to notice any differences in my life caused by being world champion. I was invited on *Question of Sport*, but that is about it."



McRae, right, and Derek Ringer, his co-driver, celebrate victory in the Network Q RAC Rally

## RFU stands firm on TV decision

BY DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

REPRESENTATIVES of England's leading sports under the auspices of the Central Council for Physical Recreation, will meet the Government's policy unit tomorrow to confirm their free-market convictions after the vote in the House of Lords on Tuesday night preventing exclusive satellite broadcasting of core sporting events.

The Rugby Football Union's

mastermind the packages." Already, BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, has a three-year agreement to screen the Middlesex Sevens, while the new Heineken Cup is broadcast by ITV; BBC's contract for home-unions rugby has 15 months to run.

There are different aspects to the packages available to television, Tony Hall, the RFU secretary, said yesterday, "and we are better placed

to compete and offered as a package linked to coverage of the Pilkington Cup.

The bad weather is likely to hit the delayed fifth round of the Pilkington Cup. Seven games are scheduled for Saturday, but, even if the tie between Leeds and London Irish goes ahead, the Irish will be without David Humphreys, 24, who joins the international squad for training, having made strong claims for his first cap against France on Saturday week.

The Pilkington Shield caters for more than 500 clubs at the bottom end of the game; it is likely that, in future, it will be joined with a new intermediate

team competition and offered as a package linked to coverage of the Pilkington Cup.

The first two events on the Tour have gone the way of Ian Woosnam, who has earned almost three times as much as his closest rival. The Welshman's victories in Singapore and Australia have seen him win £193,000, with Andrew Coltart, of Scotland, second on the earnings list on £56,500.

Fred Couples, of the United States, is to defend his title in the Dubai Desert Classic golf tournament from March 14 to 17, despite the clash with Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Invitational tournament on the US PGA Tour.

He will meet ten of Europe's winning Ryder Cup sides, including Seve Ballesteros, who has not played since September. Only Nick Faldo and Bernhard Langer will be missing.

The field will also include Jose Maria Olazabal, who has been resting since September because of the foot injury that forced him to withdraw from the Ryder Cup.

Last season, Couples was joined in Dubai by Greg Norman, Nick Price and Ernie Els, the world's top three, but none is returning this time because the tournament has been switched from January because of the religious festival of Ramadan and to make room for the new European Tour event in Australia.

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## LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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### PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF JOHN LIQUIDATOR  
Name of company: Stock Group London Limited. Nature of business: Consumer Credit. Registered office: 36-37 King Street, London EC2V 8BB. Date of notice: 24 January 1996. Notice given to the public: 24 January 1996.

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# Hall settles lingering doubt about Asprilla

By PETER BALL

FAUSTINO ASPRILLA is not yet a Newcastle United player, but, work permits and residency permitting, there is little doubt now that he soon will be. The disputes with Parma over his fitness were dismissed yesterday as Sir John Hall, the Newcastle chairman, confirmed that the £6.7 million transfer from the Italian club would go through in the next day or so.

"As I understand it, the deal has been sorted out and, hopefully, he will be coming to Newcastle to sign," Hall said yesterday morning.

The news came as a welcome relief to Kevin Keegan, whose determination to land the player had never wavered. The knee problem that delayed the transfer and threatened to halt it, and doubts about the Colombia international's temperament — to say nothing of a suspended jail sentence for firearms offences — had caused some to look askance at Keegan's enthusiasm.

Saso Udrovci scored six goals in 38 minutes in Slovenia's 7-1 rout of Iceland in the opening match of a four-nation tournament in Valletta, Malta yesterday. Iceland scored first, in the 40th minute, but Udrovci replied a minute later, and then in the 47th, 57th, 69th, 74th and 79th minutes.

asm, but the Newcastle manager remained adamant.

"Obviously there were doubts in everybody's minds, because of what has gone on," Keegan said last night. "A lot of rubbish has been written about the lad, much of which I found in bad taste."

"I've seen what other people say about him, but, if I had signed players on the basis of what I heard about them, David Ginola and Andy Cole would not have come to this club, and the fans would have missed some great players."

"You've got to have the courage to look at what you need and get the very best available. That's what I did."

"I'm just delighted that he's coming and will get the chance to prove his worth on the football field. That's where he should be judged, as far as I'm concerned."

If Asprilla, 26, proves as successful — and as popular — as Cole and Ginola at St

James Park, Keegan will have proved his point beyond contradiction, and may also have the FA Carling Premiership title as his reward. The manager has no doubts about the quality of his imminent signing, nor of his likely impact on the Newcastle supporters.

"It's just my opinion, but I would rate him among the top five [forwards] in the world," Keegan said. "The crowd will love him — he's a match-winner, a goalscorer and an entertainer."

"He's a real Newcastle player — quick, works hard and has flair. Faustino is the sort of player that Geordies love. The players they talk about are just like him. He will contribute a lot to what we do and will give us a new dimension."

As Keegan said, the thought of Asprilla playing with Beardsey and Ferdinand in the Newcastle attack is mouthwatering, or forbidding if you happen to be an opposing defender. However, with the run-in to the championship approaching, his integration will come at a time when Newcastle can ill afford to take pit-stops to fine-tune their engine.

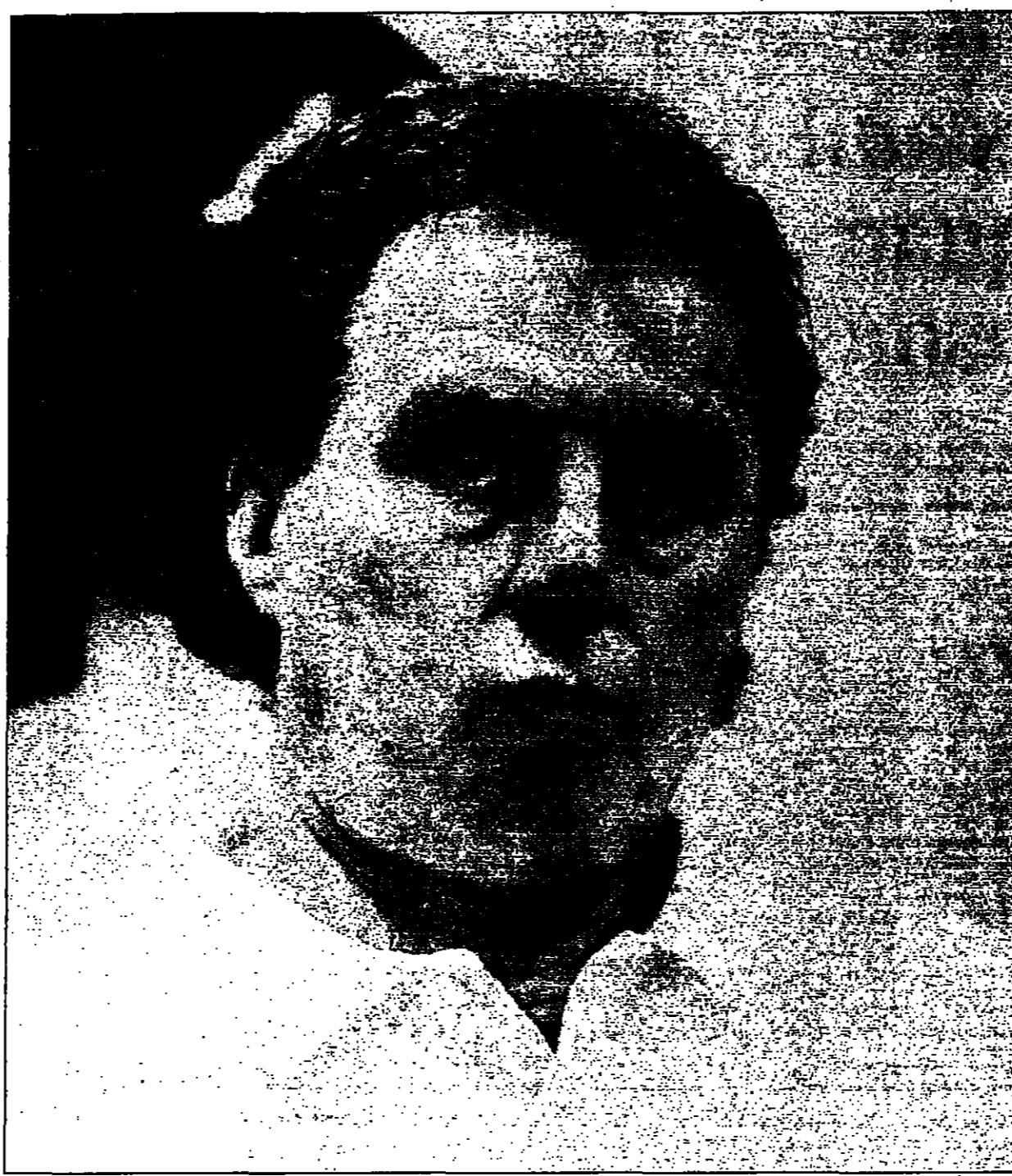
"There will be language problems and he will take time to settle in," Keegan said. "Great players adapt, though, and there's a willingness on all sides to help him."

Newcastle will hope that the work permit will arrive sooner rather than later, with some initial problems in fitting him into the side appearing inevitable. Keegan, always the enthusiast, did not see any problems as insuperable.

"It will be interesting to see how Les Ferdinand and Peter Beardsey bounce off him," he said. "It depends on how he adjusts to English football, but he falls in line with a lot of the players we've got here."

He will be very comfortable with them. Great players like playing alongside great players — and we have great players here."

At least, with Juninho at Middlesbrough and Branco also expected to join the Teds side, Asprilla will have some fellow South Americans nearby, like Mirandinha, the last South American to play for Newcastle. Branco watched Middlesbrough's FA Cup fourth-round tie with Wimbledon last night, with transfer formalities to be followed up this morning.



Redknapp, the West Ham manager, can reflect on some good results on the pitch and in the foreign transfer market.

## Redknapp happy with foreign legion

Russell Kempson finds the West Ham manager with reasons to be cheerful

TWO months ago, Harry Redknapp pronounced himself satisfied with West Ham United's respectable tenth place in the FA Carling Premiership. "It's a bit strange," he mused. "We don't have anything to fight for. We've not used to that." He should have known better. After a sequence of six defeats in seven matches, West Ham were

restored the belief that West Ham will be comfortably clear of trouble when the day of reckoning arrives in May.

Redknapp, the manager, is happy again. "It's been a good few days," he said. "Beating Coventry and Forest was obviously important. We had to get a permit," he said. "He's a top-class international and a lot of

work permit difficulties,

because he played so few games for Tottenham Hotspur before moving to east London for £1.5 million, have cast a solitary shadow on Redknapp's contentment. "I really can't see why I shouldn't get a permit," he said. "He's a top-

class international and a lot of

players that have been brought into this country aren't fit to face his boots."

The reason why he didn't play much at Tottenham was because he wasn't part of Gerry Francis's plans. That's Gerry's right, and he's been very successful in what he's done, but, if players can't get in one team, they then move on to another. That's the way it's always been. If a player can't play for his new club just because he didn't play enough times for his old club, no one would move anywhere."

Redknapp's disillusion with the bureaucratic process has been tempered by the sudden emergence of Danny Williamson from bit-part player to integral member of the side. After three seasons of going nowhere at Upton Park, apart from a loan spell at Doncaster

Rovers, of the Endsleigh Insurance League third division, two years ago, Williamson, 22, is upstaging many of his more instantly recognisable team-mates.

Whether employed wide on the right, or in central midfield, he has proved equally effective. "He's been excellent in us in either position," Redknapp said. "He doesn't appear to have a problem wherever we put him. Good players can play anywhere, and that's the way it's got to be nowadays. They have to be

able to do that."

Although Blackburn Rovers have made an inquiry about Keith Rowland, the Northern Ireland utility player, who has

started only six matches this season and recently served a two-match suspension, Redknapp now envisages a period of relative calm at the club. No more exotic imports and, preferably, nothing to fight for in the Premiership but respectability.

## Rangers keep Brazilian in sights

RANGERS hope to move a step closer to signing Jardel, the Brazilian, at a meeting of the Scottish League management committee today. They hope that the committee will give them permission to seek a work permit for the striker, even though there would still be considerable hurdles to overcome.

The champions of the Bell's League premier division may run into problems persuading the Home Office to grant Jardel such a permit, however, as he is not a full international.

Rangers would base their case on their belief that Jardel

has the potential to become an exceptional player. He has visited the club and assured Walter Smith, the manager, that he is keen to join.

Rangers would claim an outstanding work permit available to Scottish clubs for non-European Union players.

That became available when Oleg Salenko moved to Istanbulspor, of Turkey, in the swap that took Peter van Vossen, the Dutchman, to Ibrox.

Mark Ward, 33, the Birmingham City player-coach, has been told he can leave the first division club on a free transfer. The former

Everton midfielder was transferred at £250,000 in November after a contract dispute. "I am disappointed to have ended my spell like this because I wanted to help the club get into the Premier League," he said.

Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, is set to enter the transfer market again. He is seeking to sign the Peterborough leading scorer, Gary Martindale, and his teammate, Gary Breen, in exchange for the transfer-listed Birmingham pair Steve Castle and Ken Charlery.

Castle was signed for £250,000 from Plymouth in the summer but was listed by Fry, who has been pursuing the Ireland under-21 international Breen to boost his first division promotion campaign. Charlery left Peterborough to join Birmingham six months ago but has also been placed on the list by Fry, and his return to London Road would be his third spell at the club.

Swansea City's new owner, Michael Thompson, yesterday announced that the club had appointed Kevin Cullis as manager. The appointment was unexpected as his experience has been confined to non-league football. He joins Swansea from Bリスト United

for £100,000 from Plymouth in

## Wenton lines up bigger titles

By SRISKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

RICHIE WENTON, the British super-bantamweight champion, may challenge for the world title at the end of the year. He has already had an offer to meet Marco Antonio Barrera, the formidable World Boxing Organisation champion, but has turned it down for the present.

Wenton and Barry Hearn, his manager, said yesterday that they were still interested in meeting Barrera — but had other plans first. Wenton expects to win the European title in May, a bout that Hearn hopes to put on in Liverpool.

Wenton had already tried unsuccessfully once to lift the European title, but, after watching him outpoint Wilson Duthie, of Glasgow, on Tuesday at Basildon, Hearn was confident that Wenton would beat Vincenzo Belcastro, of Italy, the Euro-

pean champion, on this occasion.

Hearn said: "Last time, Richie went out to Italy — he had no choice. Now, Belcastro is past his best and it's time Richie did a proper job on him. He started up sharp last time, but fell away badly. Get him in front of a Liverpool crowd and he'll take the title."

Although Wenton, by seven rounds to four, the champion, was confident that Wenton would beat Vincenzo Belcastro, of Italy, the Euro-

## Huddersfield respond to orders

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

HUDDERSFIELD Town reached the last 16 of the FA Cup for the first time in nearly a quarter of a century on Tuesday night, but, halfway through their fourth-round tie with Peterborough United,

such a prospect seemed a long, long way away. In the opening 45 minutes, they failed to register even one shot on goal and Peterborough, of the Endsleigh Insurance League second division, were scintillating if not a Cup upset, then at least a replay.

At which point, Brian Horton stepped in. Behind closed dressing-room doors, Horton, the Huddersfield manager, read the riot act to his team at half-time, demanding a marked improvement in the second period. Suitably impressed, Huddersfield, of the first division, promptly stepped up a gear and goals from Darren Bullock and Andy Booth ensured their place in the next round with a home tie to come against Middlesbrough or Wimbledon.

Peterborough must now concentrate on a four-month fight to retain their second division status, and Mick Halsall, their manager, betrayed his concern at that prospect.

"We competed well enough,

but it just showed that we have

deserved it," Bullock said. "He told us just what he thought of the performance and it did the trick because we went out after the break and showed what we can do. We had found it hard to break them down, but, once we got in front, we started to flow and it could

O'Sullivan in right mood to retain Masters

By PHIL YATES

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN continues his attempt to emulate Cliff Thorburn and Stephen Hendry by becoming only the third snooker player in the 21-year history of the Benson and Hedges Masters to make a successful defence of the title when he meets Darren Morgan in the quarter-finals at Wembley Conference Centre tonight.

O'Sullivan will be hoping to reproduce the spellbinding form that helped him to win four successive frames during a 6-5 second-round victory over Nigel Bond on Tuesday evening in only 27 minutes.

As he helplessly watched a 4-1 lead turn into a 5-4 deficit, Bond did not pot a single ball while O'Sullivan, who scored 397 unanswered points effortlessly compiled breaks of 109, 56, 31 and 128.

O'Sullivan made the game look so preposterously easy, potting difficult balls with only split-second sightings, avoiding the rest by competently playing certain shots left-handed, and displaying pinpoint positional accuracy, that one could not help but wonder why he has had such a miserable season.

With the exception of his triumph at the Liverpool Victoria charity challenge last month, which he achieved by showing a rare degree of restraint, O'Sullivan has suffered a succession of early losses and has slipped from third to seventh in the provisional world rankings.

O'Sullivan, who has progressed past the last 32 in only one of the first five ranking events of the 1995-96 campaign, admits that a lack of patience, particularly against little-known opponents, has been his downfall.

"I can play safely with the best of them. I just don't use enough of it," O'Sullivan, whose overly cavalier approach was responsible for his first-round elimination from the Thailand Classic, Skoda Grand Prix and German Open, said.

Perhaps he has learnt his lesson, because he insists that, despite his recent form, he has not lost his edge. In their three previous meetings, he regards the dogged Westman as one of the game's most underrated exponents.

"Darren might be methodical and certainly not one of the best players to watch, but he is always very hard to beat," O'Sullivan said. He speaks from experience: having been forced to recover from 8-4 down to defeat Morgan 13-8 in the last 16 of the world championship, last year.

Wenton might be methodical and certainly not one of the best players to watch, but he is always very hard to beat," O'Sullivan said. He speaks from experience: having been forced to recover from 8-4 down to defeat Morgan 13-8 in the last 16 of the world championship, last year.

## IHF holds inquiry into bribe allegations

OFFICIALS of the International Hockey Federation (IHF) have announced that an inquiry will be held into allegations of bribery in the Olympic qualifying tournament in Barcelona last month. The decision, made after a meeting in Brussels yesterday, follows further information being supplied by the Canadian hockey authorities.

The Canadians alleged that Malaysia tried to bribe England before their match and also questioned the goalless draw between Malaysia and India which enabled the Malaysians to qualify. Both the England and Malaysia authorities have denied any knowledge of the allegations. Els van Breda Vriesman, the IHF secretary-general, said:

"No representative of the countries involved will have a presence on the disciplinary committee."

□ An award of £626,000 to Southgate Sports and Leisure Trust by the National Lottery Sports Fund will enable Southgate to move to a new ground in Enfield.

### Foster's drive

Swimming: Mark Foster won a flat 50m after setting the fifth-fastest 50 metre freestyle time at the World Cup meeting at Imperia, Italy yesterday. Foster, the Commonwealth champion, won the final in 21.70sec.0.02sec outside the world record held by Alexander Popov, the Olympic champion. Popov finished second behind Foster in 21.90sec. Sarah Collings, of the City of Bradford club, finished third in the 400m freestyle in 4min 15.40sec — three seconds inside her career best.

### Sapsford shock

Tennis: Ross Mathieson, of Scotland, beat Danny Sapsford, the No 1 seed, 7-6, 6-1 on the opening day of the LTA men's satellite event at Bramhall, Cheshire. Sapsford, ranked 27 places above his opponent, looked jaded after his journey from the Shanghai Open, where he was beaten by Jeff Tarango, in the second round. Mathieson, from Glasgow, took the initiative after a close opening set, and, with the help of 11 aces, clinched victory in 1 hour 53 minutes. He now meets Scott Humphries, of the United States.

### Happy Holmes

Athletics: Kelly Holmes won her first race of the year when she took the Army women's cross country title over a snowbound course at Longmoor, Hampshire, yesterday, in 17min 05sec.

### Allen triumph

Real tennis: Katrina Allen, the former British Open champion, played some of the best tennis of her life and combined superbly with George Grundy, of Holyport, to win the British Land national mixed doubles championship at Hampton Court. The pair beat Penny Lunley, the former world champion, and Tom Queen in the final.

### Sprint surge

Cycling: Wilfried Nelissen, of Belgium, won a sprint finish to take the first stage of the Etape de Besseges in Nimes, France, yesterday. Jan Svora, of Slovakia, seized the overall lead.

### Football

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division 2.05; Cheltenham v Wimborne; West Brom v Birmingham City.

BIRMINGHAM CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division: Middlesbrough v Sunderland (at Bramall Lane); 2.45. Postponed: Blackpool v Wigan.

CHESHIRE: Cheshire v Wrexham.

COASTAL: Hartlepool United v Hartlepool (at Victoria).

COLCHESTER: Colchester United v Stevenage (at Victoria).

COVENTRY: Coventry City v Luton (at Ricoh Arena).

CRADLEY: Cradley v Walsall (at Victoria).

DEWSBURY: Dewsbury v Bradford (at Victoria).

DOCKERS: Doncaster Rovers v Macclesfield (at Victoria).

DOUGLAS: Douglas v Wrexham (at Victoria).

ENFIELD: Enfield v Woking (at Victoria).

Customer-care policy paying dividends for royal course

## Ascot rewarded with increased crowds

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

THE remarkable transformation in the fortunes and public appeal of Ascot was underlined yesterday by crowd figures for 1995, which revealed an increase of more than 15 per cent — compared to an average national rise of less than 1 per cent.

The attendance statistics are the clearest evidence yet of the impact made on racegoers by his new "customer-care" policy, introduced by Douglas Erskine-Crum and Nick Cheyne since they took over the day-to-day responsibility for running the royal race course in October 1994.

Without eroding the centuries-old tradition and championship quality racing at Ascot, the dynamic new team

Nap: MOI CANARD (2.50 Lingfield Park). Next best: Meldorf (3.50 Lingfield Park)

has set about removing the outdated stiffness and needless red tape which was proving a turn-off for spectators. However, even they could not have hoped for such a swift response.

Total attendance in 1995 was 418,806, compared to 363,149 in 1994, which means Ascot attracted nearly 9 per cent of all spectators attending Britain's 59 racecourses.

In 1994, Ascot had one less fixture and lost two days to weather. Even when attendance figures for the equivalent three days last year are removed from calculations, the increase is still 34,742 or 9.6 per cent — nearly ten times the overall national increase.

While the glorious weather, which blessed the four-day royal meeting, contributed to an increased attendance of



Ascot racecourse attracted a total attendance of 418,806 in 1995, an increase of more than 15 per cent on the previous year's figures

nearly 20,000, the sun alone would not have brought about the 8.12% rise (2% per cent) on the Friday.

Although final attendance figures for most courses are still being collated by Weatherbys, Haydock's flat crowds were down by 8.6 per cent, despite staging one extra fixture in 1995. Kempton was down 2.6 per cent from 1994. Newmarket, which

has benefited from the impact made by Peter Player as chairman, saw numbers swell to 290,241 — an 11 per cent increase — from 32 days racing compared to 31 in 1994.

Erskine-Crum, Ascot's race course director, said yesterday: "We have put considerable emphasis in the last 12 months on developing customer relations, improving facilities and making the racecourse accessible and friendly. We have also worked hard to

maintain a programme of the highest quality across our 24 race-days.

He added: "We have many new plans for the future, all geared to providing our racegoers with the best possible entertainment, enjoyment, comfort and value for money. Racing has to compete for its market with a growing number of other sports and rival entertainments, so strong marketing and promotion, as well as improved

customer-care, have to be a key part of any strategy."

Afer appearing not so long ago to be still residing in the era of the quill pen, Ascot now has a new computer system which takes care of everything from accounts and marketing data to the ordering, allocating and printing of tickets — and a discount is being made available for the first time on Royal Ascot grandstand tickets bought before Derby Day. Most of the infuriating "By

customer" signs, telling spectators what they must not do, have been removed and the members' enclosure restaurant has been refurbished. A £2 million project, which will be completed in time for this year's royal meeting, will see the longest and largest bar in any British racecourse built in the grandstand area.

Racecourse of the Year would have been unimaginable two years ago. Now it is only a question of when.

## Bargain hunters take early value in National market

By RICHARD EVANS

VALUE-SEEKING readers of *The Times* were quick off the mark yesterday to take advantage of the generous ante-post prices being offered against Young Hustler, Rough Quest and Deep Bramble in the Martell Grand National.

Both William Hill and Ladbrokes reported plenty of money for Young Hustler, recommended by Robert Wright in his Racing Ahead column yesterday, and were forced to trim Nigel Twiston-Davies's chaser from 20-1 to 16-1 joint-favourite.

Wright also recommended Rough Quest at

33-1 and Coral shortened Terry Casey's stayer to 25-1. The Barking firm also stood out with their offer of 25-1 against Deep Bramble, my long-range tip for the Aintree showpiece, by the end of business yesterday. Paul Nicholls's nine-year-old was 20-1.

Although there was support for Smith's Band, Monsieur Le Coe, Party Politics, Earth Summit and Tartar Tyrant, the trio of horses recommended here yesterday were the only entries to have their prices clipped.

As the big bookmakers look ahead to the biggest betting' day of the year, their main concern is the effect of the lottery on turnover.

Will the once-a-year punters who have always had a bet on the National remain loyal, or are they hooked on the lottery?

Mike Dillon, of Ladbrokes, confirmed: "The lottery will have an effect on turnover because the Grand National has traditionally drawn much of its turnover from the once-a-year flutterer who is now gambling every week on the lottery."

To what degree it is difficult to say and it will depend to a large extent on how the different parties get behind the National to promote it and put it in the forefront of the public's mind. Obviously, we will be doing a

lot to make sure that happens and much depends on press coverage."

With the first running of the Dubai World Cup being staged on March 27, some of the newspaper coverage normally devoted to the National in the run-up to the race looks sure to be taken up by the \$4 million contest.

Coral's Rob Hartnett believes the lottery helped to reduce Grand National turnover by 10 per cent last year. "People always liked the excitement and slightly risqué nature of having a flutter on the National. Now they have got it every week and the National has lost its place a bit in our hearts."

## Ayr offers ray of hope for return of jumping

AYR on Saturday could come to the rescue of the rescue of action-starved jump racing followers. Mark Kershaw, general manager at the Scottish course, issued an optimistic bulletin after receiving the weekend weather forecast yesterday. "We may be lucky," Kershaw said. "I have just walked the track and, although we couldn't have raced today, it has improved. The forecast is for temperatures between zero and 4C."

Catterick, also due to race on Saturday, is another course with more than a glimmer of hope. "We could not have raced today but tomorrow is expected to be a fine day," a spokeswoman said yesterday.

"I should say it's about 50-50."

Whatever Uttoxeter's fate,

the £100,000 bonus awarded for wins in the National Trial, to race on Saturday, will be paid out.

More immediately, today's meetings at Wincanton and Huntingdon were both called off yesterday morning, as was tomorrow's Bangor card.

Prospects for the Tote Gold

Trophy fixture at Newbury tomorrow and Saturday remain bleak while Uttoxeter on Saturday has little chance of surviving. An inspection will be held at noon today.

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1932 Olympic silver medal-winner looks back on pay day of memories

## Flagbearer for golden age of sport

The secret of time travel in sport is not to take a time machine, but to hitch a lift instead with one of those original chariots of fire. They are hard to find these days, but, at the weekend, one of the last living players from a vanished and golden age of British athletics transported a small group of sportsmen back through time.

Jerry Corines was a lean and elegant Oxford graduate of 22 when he stepped onto the Olympic rostrum 64 years ago in Los Angeles. He had just run the race of his life to carry off the silver medal in the 1,500 metres. Today, an Olympic performance like that could set him up with sponsorship, agents and rich rewards. However, as Corines — 85 and still fit enough to hold a room spellbound — remembers, sport and the world were very different in Los Angeles in 1932.

A 12-day journey from Southamp-



Corines warms up for the Olympics with a victory over Lovelock in the AAA championships in July 1932

ton, first by boat, the *Empress of Britain*, then by train, took the Great Britain team to a Los Angeles that was determined to put on a show despite the depression. The Americans feared that the Games would be a flop because it was so far to travel, but, to the visitors, the welcome seemed fabulous. They built an Olympic stadium to hold 104,000 which was so good that they used it for the next Games in Los Angeles, 52 years later. The track was the fastest that most had ever run on. There was the first purpose-built Olympic village and, with a touch of Hollywood, there was even the first appearance of the "Olympic flame".

Olympic sportsmanship, too, burnt with a brightness that might seem quaint to some of the competitors of today. In the 400 metres hurdles, for instance, Lord Burghley, of Britain, and Morgan Taylor, of the United States, were reckoned to be the best in the world. Taylor had been given the task of carrying the American flag at the opening parade — a tiring job in the Californian sunshine. So, in order not to gain an unfair advantage, Burghley carried the British flag at the same time. Both lost in the race to Bob Tisdall, an Irishman.

On August 4, 1932, he finished

second in the 1,500 metres final to Luigi Beccali, the fast-kicking Italian, who ran 3min 51.2sec — an Olympic record. Beccali covered the last 300 metres in around 41sec, a killing pace in those days. Corines ran 3min 52.6sec — the fastest by a British athlete to that time. Jack Lovelock, his friend from New Zealand (who was

to win gold four years later), trailed in seventh.

Corines had prepared himself for this performance on training that would be considered inadequate for a schoolboy athlete today. "I ran only twice a week through the summer," he said. "Absurd compared with what they do nowadays."

JOHN BRYANT

## Smith sets out to join Gascoigne and Giggs

When the England women's football team takes the field against Portugal in Lisbon on Sunday, English eyes are likely to turn to one player — Kelly Smith, who is fast earning a reputation as the female Paul Gascoigne. Part of that comparison has been built on her considerable talents on the field, and part on her unconventional attitude off it — she has a soft spot for junk food, although "not be-

Sarah Forde meets a teenager touted as the future of England women's football



Smith: a precocious talent with an unerring eye for goal

### WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 41

#### ACRIDIAN

(c) Of or pertaining to an orthopterous insect of the family *Acrididae*, comprising certain locusts and grasshoppers, but not all of them.

#### GHOST

(b) Philosophical jargon, from the *ghost in the machine*, Gilbert Ryle's name for the mind viewed as separate from the body in *Dilemmas* and other works. Ryle, *Concept of Mind*, 1949: "The dogma of the Ghost in the machine maintains that there exist both bodies and minds; that there are mechanical causes of corporeal movements and mental causes of corporeal movements."

#### DOOLAN

(a) A Roman Catholic, in particular an Irish Roman Catholic, taken to be the most stupid and bigoted of that sect. New Zealand slang, an eponym from the Irish surname Doolan.

#### COHO

(c) A species of salmon, *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, found in the northern Pacific waters; the silver salmon. Etymology of unknown origin. 1859. *The British Colonist* (spelling *oncorhynchus*). "Lastly, there is the genus known by the Indian name of cohoose, a hybrid bastard sort of fish, half trout, half salmon."

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the ball with a deft touch and played an intuitive one-two with Marianne Spacey before setting off down the wing. Her pace took her past Frederica D'Astolfo and a faint saw off Manuela Tesse. The Italy pair, with 71 caps between them, stood mesmerised.

It was the first of many a raid down the left and Tesse will have had nightmares about Smith, her tormentor that night.

Smith capped a remarkable performance in her second international, against Croatia, with her first goal for England, a penalty in the last minute. Andreja Rogar, the Croatian defender, tired of being left in her wake, pulled her down and, as Gillian Coulthard, the most capped England player, prepared to take the kick, Ted Copland, the England manager, told Smith to take it, "as a reward". Up she stepped and, left footed, coolly placed the ball low to the goalkeeper's right.

Copland described Smith as "exceptional" against Italy and "outstanding" against Croatia. So what is it that makes the girl from Garston, near Watford, so special?

Her confidence and composure on the pitch is extraordinary, but her life away from football could not be more ordinary. She lives with her parents, is studying for a diploma in sports science at West Herts College, enjoys going out with friends and likes dance and chart music.

Smith is an Arsenal supporter and her bedroom is a shrine to Ian Wright, whom she admires because of "his enthusiasm and appetite for the game and determination to win".

Glen, 14, her brother plays for his local team but will always live in her shadow. "She's the natural, he has to work a lot harder," Bernard, her father, one of the three wise men who have nurtured her undoubted talent, said.

Norman Burns, the manager at Pinner Park, her first club, and John Jones, her manager at Wembley, make up the trio who have covetted their outstanding player thus far. Jones, passionately vocal about women's football, has played a steady role in the development of the mild-ma-



Smith and the England squad train for the international with Portugal on Sunday

nered teenager. He is excited by her ability, but cautious of her rapid ascent.

"Every so often, someone comes along in a sport who has natural ability and, at a very early stage, you say, 'That's going to be an England player,'" he said. "You recognise them. With Kelly, we are encouraging and enhancing her strength, teaching her what the game is about so she can be a match-winner for 90 minutes at the top level."

Smith knows that she has plenty to learn, but her meek

demeanour does not fully mask her self-belief. On comparisons with Gascoigne, she said: "I'm not as strong as him but I have the same skill. I'm more like Ryan Giggs, I like to run at players." An accurate self-portrait, although some would say that she is a better crosser of the ball than Giggs was at 17.

Smith has no hesitation in naming her best goal, scored for Wembley Reserves against Arsenal Reserves, a goal that "did the Arsenal", who were previously unbeaten.

Jones described the mo-

ment with misty-eyed admiration: "Kelly broke down the left, hit the ball from 30 yards out into the top corner. People pay loads of money to see that. It was a goal of the season — a classic. That made it 3-2 and the whistle went not long after."

Kelly Smith has always been a match-winner. On Sunday, she will make her third appearance in an England shirt, against Portugal in Benfica. She is an exciting talent with the potential to become great. Only time will tell.

## Justice back in the dock

Cause offside. Radio 4. 9.30am.

Kevin Callan was sentenced to life for murdering his partner's four-year-old daughter. She had suffered a brain haemorrhage and choked to death. He spent four years behind bars. Books that he obtained from the prison library opened his eyes to the nature of neuro-pathology in general and head injuries in particular. What drove him to fight to prove his innocence was the knowledge that, at his trial, the only medical evidence came from the prosecution. He appealed against his sentence. His conviction was quashed. Jenny Mills leads Kevin Callan back through an ordeal that is still laden with a myriad of questions. They must be answered if others are going to be spared his fate.

Evening Concert. Classic FM. 8.00pm.

The London Mozart Players' concert tonight includes a work that knocks on the head and kicks in the shin the belief that happy music can come only from happy composers. I am talking about Schubert's Octet in F major, a work brimming with optimism, and almost as cheerful as his *Trotz* piano quintet. You would think that, when he wrote the octet, Schubert did not have a care in the world. The truth is much grimmer. He was seriously ill, deeply depressed. "Each night, when I go to sleep," he wrote to a friend, "I hope I shall not wake again." Admittedly, in the octet's finale, a couple of dark clouds obscure the sun's face ... but not for long.

Peter Davall

### RADIO 1

'He still reckons he might have won if he hadn't been watching the Finns'

### RADIO 2

EM Steward, *8.00am*; Sarah Kaye, *7.30am*; Simon Mayo, *8.00am*; Chris Evans, *9.00am*; Simon Mayo, *12.00pm*; Mark Goodier, *7.00pm*; Evening Session, *7.30pm*; Lemmings, *7.45pm*; Drum, *8.00pm*; 9.00pm; Corrie and McCorries, *8.00pm*; Hit Parade, *10.00pm*; Mark Radcliffe, *Midnight*; Clare Sturgess, *12.15am*; The Net

### RADIO 3

EM Steward, *8.00am*; Sarah Kaye, *7.30am*; Simon Mayo, *8.00am*; Chris Evans, *9.00am*; Simon Mayo, *12.00pm*; Mark Goodier, *7.00pm*; Evening Session, *7.30pm*; Lemmings, *7.45pm*; Drum, *8.00pm*; 9.00pm; Corrie and McCorries, *8.00pm*; Hit Parade, *10.00pm*; Mark Radcliffe, *Midnight*; Clare Sturgess, *12.15am*; The Net

### RADIO 4

EM Steward, *8.00am*; Sarah Kaye, *7.30am*; Simon Mayo, *8.00am*; Chris Evans, *9.00am*; Simon Mayo, *12.00pm*; Mark Goodier, *7.00pm*; Evening Session, *7.30pm*; Lemmings, *7.45pm*; Drum, *8.00pm*; 9.00pm; Corrie and McCorries, *8.00pm*; Hit Parade, *10.00pm*; Mark Radcliffe, *Midnight*; Clare Sturgess, *12.15am*; The Net

### RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am: Morning Report, *6.00am*; The Breakfast Programme, *6.55am*; 7.00am: *7.30am*; 7.30am: *7.45am*; 7.45am: *8.00am*; 8.00am: *8.15am*; 8.15am: *8.30am*; 8.30am: *8.45am*; 8.45am: *8.55am*; 8.55am: *9.00am*; 9.00am: *9.15am*; 9.15am: *9.30am*; 9.30am: *9.45am*; 9.45am: *10.00am*; 10.00am: *10.15am*; 10.15am: *10.30am*; 10.30am: *10.45am*; 10.45am: *11.00am*; 11.00am: *11.15am*; 11.15am: *11.30am*; 11.30am: *11.45am*; 11.45am: *12.00pm*; 12.00pm: *12.15pm*; 12.15pm: *12.30pm*; 12.30pm: *12.45pm*; 12.45pm: *1.00pm*; 1.00pm: *1.15pm*; 1.15pm: *1.30pm*; 1.30pm: *1.45pm*; 1.45pm: *1.55pm*; 1.55pm: *2.00pm*; 2.00pm: *2.15pm*; 2.15pm: *2.30pm*; 2.30pm: *2.45pm*; 2.45pm: *2.55pm*; 2.55pm: *3.00pm*; 3.00pm: *3.15pm*; 3.15pm: *3.30pm*; 3.30pm: *3.45pm*; 3.45pm: *3.55pm*; 3.55pm: *4.00pm*; 4.00pm: *4.15pm*; 4.15pm: *4.30pm*; 4.30pm: *4.45pm*; 4.45pm: *4.55pm*; 4.55pm: *5.00pm*; 5.00pm: *5.15pm*; 5.15pm: *5.30pm*; 5.30pm: *5.45pm*; 5.45pm: *5.55pm*; 5.55pm: *6.00pm*; 6.00pm: *6.15pm*; 6.15pm: *6.30pm*; 6.30pm: *6.45pm*; 6.45pm: *6.55pm*; 6.55pm: *7.00pm*; 7.00pm: *7.15pm*; 7.15pm: *7.30pm*; 7.30pm: *7.45pm*; 7.45pm: *7.55pm*; 7.55pm: *8.00pm*; 8.00pm: *8.15pm*; 8.15pm: *8.30pm*; 8.30pm: *8.45pm*; 8.45pm: *8.55pm*; 8.55pm: *9.00pm*; 9.00pm: *9.15pm*; 9.15pm: *9.30pm*; 9.30pm: *9.45pm*; 9.45pm: *10.00pm*; 10.00pm: *10.15pm*; 10.15pm: *10.30pm*; 10.30pm: *10.45pm*; 10.45pm: *11.00pm*; 11.00pm: *11.15pm*; 11.15pm: *11.30pm*; 11.30pm: *11.45pm*; 11.45pm: *12.00am*; 12.00am: *12.15am*; 12.15am: *12.30am*; 12.30am: *12.45am*; 12.45am: *1.00am*; 1.00am: *1.15am*; 1.15am: *1.30am*; 1.30am: *1.45am*; 1.45am: *1.55am*; 1.55am: *2.00am*; 2.00am: *2.15am*; 2.15am: *2.30am*; 2.30am: *2.45am*; 2.45am: *2.55am*; 2.55am: *3.00am*; 3.00am: *3.15am*; 3.15am: *3.30am*; 3.30am: *3.45am*; 3.45am: *3.55am*; 3.55am: *4.00am*; 4.00am: *4.15am*; 4.15am: *4.30am*; 4.30am: *4.45am*; 4.45am: *4.55am*; 4.55am: *5.00am*; 5.00am: *5.15am*; 5.15am: *5.30am*; 5.30am: *5.45am*; 5.45am: *5.55am*; 5.55am: *6.00am*; 6.00am: *6.15am*; 6.15am: *6.30am*; 6.30am: *6.45am*; 6.45am: *6.55am*; 6.55am: *7.00am*; 7.00am: *7.15am*; 7.15am: *7.30am*; 7.30am: *7.45am*;

# Only a woman has the measure of a man

**M**en everywhere, it was that sort of night. Hollywood men, acting up; Whitehall men, ditto and Marina Warner on men among other things. So the choices, in terms of starting points, lie between filmic triviality, dark tales from the Scott inquiry and Warner's intellectual analysis.

The least shall be first. *Hollywood Men* (ITV) was the last in the series and concluded with a frightening caption which said: Coming soon, *Hollywood Pets*. I can hardly wait but will try.

This episode was called *The High Life* but that only arose out of the need to give it a title. In reality (though that word is ill-chosen), sundry Hollywood men talked about anything that came into their heads. What kept me going was the list of subtities. A man would appear on the screen and start to talk. A few seconds later his name would appear and under his

name there would be a description of his role in life.

Judging by appearances, which is the only way to judge this kind of programme, the names were pretty much interchangeable. The descriptions, though, were pure gags. They included: "Millionaire romance icon" and "Executive director to the stars" and "Writer's block therapist" and "Professional friend". I assume these job descriptions were designed to brighten the day of bored customs officers checking passports at LA International.

Such oddities only help to underline the point of Hollywood, which is its visibility, in lack of being gloriously fatus. After all, the films are not often much good, certainly they are rarely half as much fun as programmes such as this one.

I think it was the millionaire romance icon — there's an ambi-

bition for a lottery winner — who put Hollywood in perspective once and for all by saying: "You see a man in a Jaguar convertible with a lascivious blonde at his side. You think he must be somebody. The chances are he is some actor's jeweller."

The difficulty with such nonsense is that it creates a Hollywood so false that when truly awful things happen they become just another anecdote. Robert Evans, the producer of *The Godfather*, stayed away from drugs for most of his career but then he was dragged into a cocaine bus in New York because his name came up as one of the alleged customers for the drugs.

For Evans the result was humiliation and disgrace. So much so that when his son graduated from college, the boy could not even find a girl willing to be his date for the graduation ball. Hollywood, a mobile society fuelled by gasoline and

cocaine in equal measures, summons hypocrisy in even fuller measure to wreak ultimate revenge.

Meanwhile in Whitehall, drama of a very English kind unfolds. Next Thursday the Scott Report on arms to Iraq will be published but those whom it may or may not impugn are getting their retaliation in first. *Dispatches* (Channel 4) talked to Sir Richard Scott and to

several of his detractors. Lord Howe, the detractor-in-chief, reiterated his line that the inquiry was structurally unsound but denied absolutely that there was an organised campaign against Scott. Not at all. There was, however, a series of recurrent outbursts of anxiety, as perfect an example of Whitehall-speak as one might encounter outside Yes. Minister.

Lord Howe has been put forward as what Hollywood would surely call the professional friend of the Government vis à vis Scott, but this does not necessarily mean that Howe is wrong. But the public will surely make a judgement next Thursday on the content of the report, as expressed in dramatic headlines. And if the Government rejects the report, the public will judge that the Government is shooting the messenger.

This may be "unfair", in Lord Howe's word, but several people

pointed out in *Dispatches* that it was John Major who appointed Scott the man who, as Lord Justice Scott, had demonstrated his independence by rejecting the Thatcher Government's attempt to suppress *Spycatcher*. And it was Major who appears not to have told Scott who should conduct the inquiry. As ye sow, so shall ye reap.

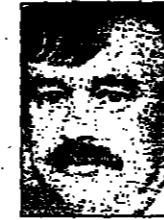
She cites *The Silence of the Lambs* and *Seven*, the new film about a serial killer, in both of which the monster is a person of considerable intelligence. Of course, these are merely modern examples of the "mad scientist" and the link suggests that men are not much altered.

New man? Warner is sceptical, citing poor levels of involvement in the family... the pressure on young men not to be seen to be domesticated or tame".

Interesting that of three programmes under review, two factual and one a philosophical discourse, the last had moments when it was more enlightening about the underlying forces at work in Hollywood and Whitehall than either of the others.

## REVIEW

Peter Barnard



### BBC1

0.00am *Business Breakfast* (74582) 1.00 *BBC Breakfast News* (Ceefax) (70363) 1.00 *Breakfast News* (Ceefax) (417031) 8.20 *Can't Cook, Won't Cook* (s) (2268465) 8.45 *Klaxon* (s) (149340) 1.30 *Good Morning* (s) (82779) 2.00 *News* (Ceefax) and weather (605447) 2.05 *Turnabout* (s) (950665) 2.20 *Going for a Song* (s) (93021) 4.00 *One O'Clock News* (Ceefax) and weather (20240) 4.30 *Regional News* and weather (776393) 4.40 *Neighbours* (Ceefax) (s) (3442477) 4.50 *Pebble Mill* (s) (3795330) 4.60 *Snooker — the Masters* from Wembley Conference Centre (s) (5418862) 4.70 *Minobalites* (s) (5090934) 4.10 *Highlanders* (Ceefax) (s) (6911427) 4.35 *The Really Wild Show* (Ceefax) (s) (8864804) 5.00 *Newround* (Ceefax) (4748507) 5.10 *Grange Hill* (Ceefax) (s) (1723866) 5.35 *Neighbours* (s) (525408) 5.40 *One O'Clock News* (Ceefax) and weather (663) 5.50 *Regional News Magazine* (243) NL: 6.30 *Neighbours* (s) (Ceefax) (s) 6.50 *Top of the Pops* (Ceefax) (s) (45959) 7.30 *EastEnders*. Pat lays down the law with Frank (Ceefax) (s) (427) 8.00 *The Vet: Stormy Weather*. In the last of the series, a violent storm brings terror to Stretches Farm and a cat gives Murray the run-around (Ceefax) (s) (819193) 8.50 *Animal Hospital*. Nurses. Highlights from past visits to the Hartham Hospital in London (Ceefax) (s) (810576) 9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* (Ceefax) regional news and weather (32249) 9.30 *French and Saunders*, includes a Star Task interpretation of the O.J. Simpson trial (Ceefax) (s) (13885) 10.00 *Flying Doctors* — A 999 Special. The work of the London Helicopter Emergency Medical Service, (Ceefax) (s) (90431) NL: 10.00 *Spotlight* 10.30 *999 International Rescue* 11.20 *Question Time* 12.20 *am Hunger for Faith* 12.45-2.10 *Film*: *Let's Spend the Night Together* WALES: 10.00 *The State* 10.30 *999 International Rescue* 11.20 *Question Time* 12.20 *am Hunger for Faith* 12.45-2.20 *Film*: *Laguna Heat* 10.50 *Question Time*. The panel is the MPs Peter Lilley and Tessa Jowell, the author and broadcaster Mavis Nicholson and Rodney Kleven, CC (Ceefax) (94945) 11.50 *Hunger for Faith*. The Women's Room. Rana Kabbani meets four Muslim women who use their faith to help them to establish their independent identities (Ceefax) (s) (55583) 12.10 *Film*: *Laguna Heat* (1987) starring Harry Hadden, Jason Roberts and Catherine Hicks. A detective takes a well-earned rest after the death of his partner only to find himself embroiled in a murder investigation involving an old friend. Directed by Simon Langton (253489) 1.50-1.55 *Weather* (5488347) 5.40-5.50 *Hunger for Faith: The Women's Room* (s) (Ceefax) (s) (8241373)

### BBC2

6.00am *Open University: Databases* (207806) 8.25 *Computing* (205757) 8.50 *Beating the Morning Rush* (517533) 7.15 *See Hear Breakfast News* (Ceefax) (849279) 8.30 *Stringray* (r) (Ceefax) (28446) 8.00 *Blue Peter* (r) (Ceefax) (s) (788777) 8.25 *Tales of the Tooth Fairies* (4603409) 8.30 *Puppydog Tales* (192288) 8.40 *The Record* (s) (8246791) 9.05 *Daytime on Two: Seeing Through Science* (s) (3245555) 9.30 *Leamorepress* (912799) 9.45 *Over the Moon* (s) (867284) 10.10 *Playdays* (s) (5522576) 10.25 *Storytime* (s) (857224) 10.45 *Science Zone* (s) (7417595) 11.05 *Space Ark* (s) (3654555) 11.15 *Heathie 3* (s) (3394175) 11.30 *Landmarks* (Ceefax) (s) (6221788) NL: 11.35 *Ulster in Focus* 12.00 *Christianity* (s) (6714798) 12.15 *Clementine* (s) (6714797) 1.00 *Liveschool* (s) (8476785) 1.25 *Technology* (s) (37612205) 1.40 *Numberline* (s) (34415021) 2.00 *Tales of the Tooth Fairies* (s) (10015427) 2.05 *Puppydog Tales* (s) (10014798) 2.10 *The Andrew Neil Show* (s) (8247088) 3.00 *News* (Ceefax) and weather (255953) 3.05 *Westminster* (Ceefax) (4852570) 3.35 *Blues* (Ceefax) (s) (1046311) 4.00 *Snooker — the Masters*. The first quarter final (s) (1408) 4.50 *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* (Ceefax) (s) (983885) 6.45 *They Who Dare*. The sports of hydrospeed and canyoning (s) (510359) 7.00 *Waiting for God* (r) (Ceefax) (s) (8601) 7.30 *First Sight: Fair Game* (999) NL: 7.30 *Now You're Talking* (162021) 7.55 *Our Roving Reporter* (883801) WALES: 7.30 *Dad's Army* EAST: 7.30 *Mater of Fact* MIDLANDS: 7.30 *Midlands Report* NORTH: NORTH EAST: NORTH WEST: 7.30 *Closer Up* NORTH SOUTH: 7.30 *Southern Eye* SOUTH WEST: 7.30 *Closer Up* WEST: 7.30 *Closer Up*



Derek Hatton, complex man (8.00pm)

8.00 *My Brilliant Career: Derek Hatton — A Very Different Man* (Ceefax) (s) (1021) 8.20 *Jeremy Clarkson's Motorworld* visits the United Arab Emirates. Last in the series (847681) 8.30 *Traces of Guilt* (Ceefax) (s) (373953) 9.50 *Potted Histories*. Ephytes. Last in series (Ceefax) (s) (895853) 10.00 *Game On*. Sit-com (r) (Ceefax) (s) Followed by *Talking Cazza* (64021) 10.30 *Newsnight* (Ceefax) (86137) 11.15 *Snooker — the Masters*. The second quarter final (s) (503408) 11.55 *Weather* 12.00 *The Midnight Hour* (s) (51606) 12.30am-6.00 *The Learning Zone*

**VideoPlus** and **One Video Plus** Codes The numbers next to each TV programme are Video Plus Codes, which allow you to programme your video recorder easily with a VideoPlus remote. To record a programme, dial the VideoPlus code, then the programme code. For more details call VideoPlus on 0800 222 1234. To change the channel, dial the VideoPlus code, then the channel number. **STV VideoPlus** (s), **Platinum** (s), **Platinum+1**, **Platinum+2**, **Platinum+3** and **Platinum+4** are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd

### C4

My Brilliant Career: Derek Hatton — A Very Different Man (Ceefax) (s) 8.00pm For a former stalwart of Militant, Derek Hatton has become a spectacular convert to the market economy. Or so it would seem when you learn that he runs a public relations company, has his own television show and commands £1,000 a night as an after-dinner speaker. Half an hour is hardly enough to do justice to the story of the fireman's son who became a pillar of his church before finding a niche in Trotskyite politics. Even now the rights and wrongs of his stewardship of Liverpool City Council are hard to untangle. His motives may have been fine, to bring decent housing to slum areas. But declaring war on Margaret Thatcher, and, for that matter, Neil Kinnock, was perhaps not the best way to proceed. He remains a complex and contradictory figure.

**Seasiders** 4.90pm

It is high season at Primrose Valley, the Haven company's holiday centre on the Yorkshire coast, and 3,000 people are waiting to be entertained. For the Havenites, with their striped blazers and permanent smiles, it is going to be a test of endurance as well as the ability to hold an audience. Not all holidaymakers are guaranteed to behave themselves. The visiting cabaret star Tom O'Connor offers tips to the rookie entertainers. Not surprisingly, they want to know how to deal with hecklers. We meet a family from Keighley who have been coming to Primrose Valley for nine years and whose nine-year-old offspring fancies himself as Freddie Mercury in the children's talent contest. This is a series of observation, rather than revelation, but it offers an honest insight into British popular culture.

**Timers Whispers in the Dark** 7.00pm

Not for the first time in this series, the guest outshines the regular cast. Richard Graham is one of those actors whose face is better known than his name and the face is unmistakable. Graham's speciality is villains. When the Armed Robbery Squad hits on a suspect for a security van job, and he is played by Graham, you know the police have got the right man. The question, therefore, is not who is whodunit but whether he will get away with it. The parallel plot is a peek into the home life of detective Helen Ash (Lynda Steadman), who is trying to juggle a job which means lots of night work with the demands of a husband (Glyn Grimstead) and small children. The theme is no more original than the rest of the show, which is standard cops-and-robbers fare, even though it is delivered with pace.

**Traces of Guilt: The Drug Detectives** 8.00pm

An Asian arrives at Heathrow airport with an apparently innocent suitcase, but forensic tests reveal that his clothes are impregnated with cocaine with a street value of £800,000. Science has triumphed again. In charting its role in the war against drugs, the film visits the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and highlights its role in unmasking what became known as the French connection. But science has not been used only against dealers and pushers. In 1986 President Reagan launched a campaign for a "drug-free America", aimed at both the Armed Forces and the civilian workplace. The screening of staff and job applicants, has become commonplace and the practice has spread to Britain. But Bryan Finkle, a forensic toxicologist, is worried about the invasion of privacy.

Peter Waymark

9.00 *Thief Takers: Whispers in the Dark* with Reece Dinsdale, Glyn Grimstead and Lynda Steadman (Teletext) (s) (5791) 10.00 *News at Ten*, weather (Teletext) (s) (81175) 10.30 *Regional News* (Teletext) (807779) 10.40 *Film: The Face of Fear* (1990), starring Pam Dawber, Lee Hosley and Kevin Connolly. A mountain climber uses his psychic powers to help police to track down a serial killer. Directed by Farhad Mann (Teletext) (s) (4250061) 12.30 *Not Far Away* (s) (82248) 1.30 *Shift* (61101) 2.30 *The Crime Hour* (s) (894337) 3.25 *Mangrove Anniversary: Alexa Korner and Friends*. A tribute to one of Europe's premier rock venues (r) (s) (490116) 4.20 *The Time ... the Place* (s) (7179064) 5.00 *The New Mr & Mrs Show* (s) (54880) 5.30 *Morning News* (s) (84869)

### ITV

6.00am *GMTV* (2555040) 9.25 *Win, Lose or Draw Quiz* (s) (3243137) 9.55 *Regional News* (Teletext) (5329253) 10.00 *The Time ... the Place* (s) (1783972) 10.35 *This Morning* (15841779) 12.20pm *Regional News* (Teletext) (6044311) 12.30 *News and weather* (Teletext) (3395446) 12.55 *Shortland Street* (s) (8023083) 1.20 *Coronation Street* (r) (Teletext) (8476304) 1.50 *Home and Away* (Teletext) (58330361) 2.20 *Chain Letters* (Teletext) (s) (5792062) 2.50 *Vanessa* (Teletext) (s) (8732224) 3.20 *News headlines* (Teletext) (2062243) 3.25 *Regional News* (Teletext) (2061512) 3.30 *The Riddlers* (1451088) 3.40 *Wizards* (r) (s) (6259788) 3.50 *Rupert* (9127976) 4.20 *Mike and Angela* (s) (862779) 4.45 *Reboot II* (Teletext) (s) (4169296) 5.10 *A Country Practice* (8570250) 5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* (8486862) 6.00-7.00 *Westcountry Live* (33638) 6.35 *Think Tank* (r) (Teletext) (5156205) 7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (98663) 9.00 *Fifteen to One* (76224) 9.30 *Schools: Middle English* (1822327) 9.45 *Places and People* (202872) 10.05 *Scientific Eye* (8556412) 10.25 *Geographical Eye Over Britain* (9885953) 10.45 *Quest* (905717) 11.00 *History in Action: Hypotheticals* (391088) 11.20 *RI Ra* (7157408) 11.40 *The German Programme* (2763779)

### WEST END LONDON

As HTV West except:

12.25-12.30 *My Story* (6052330)

1.25 *Chain Letters* (84762311)

1.55 *A Country Practice* (34421682)

2.20 *Vanessa* (8472062)

2.55-3.20 *A Country Practice* (84421682)

3.40 *Home and Away* (8486

THREE-YEAR DEAL  
LURES HANLEY  
TO SYDNEY TIGERS

# SPORT

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8 1996

RACING 41

ASCOT BENEFIT  
FROM A CHANGE  
OF FORTUNES

England may need replacement

## Smith injured in World Cup warm-up match

BY SIMON WILDE

ROBIN SMITH, the most prolific limited-overs run-scorer in the England World Cup party, may be out of the competition after damaging a groin muscle during his team's first formal practice match, in Lahore yesterday. Smith sustained the injury while holding a brilliant catch in the closing stages of England's 62-run victory over a Lahore City XI at Aitchison College.

Groin strains are notoriously difficult to assess, and there was uncertainty yesterday as to how long Smith might be incapacitated. "We should know more in a day or two," Raymond Illingworth, the England manager, said, "but if the muscle has really gone, then it's a three-week job and Robin would be out of the competition."

Smith was ordered to rest in his hotel room last night while having ice-pack treatment. "I feel very depressed at the moment. I'm very, very low," he said. "I've been told I should be reasonably patient because, at best, it's going to take a short while. That's just devastating for me."

Even if Smith makes a quick recovery, the chance of him playing in England's opening group match, against New Zealand in Ahmedabad next Wednesday, appears small. A serious pull would almost certainly lead to him being replaced, probably either by Mark Ramprakash or Nasser Hussain.

Ramprakash is one of two players — the other is Angus

Fraser, a bowler — on standby for the tournament. On the England tour of South Africa, he again failed to fulfil his promise, although he looked less vulnerable in the one-day matches. Hussain is also match-ready, having been a member of the recent England A tour of Pakistan. Indeed, in view of the enterprising and mature way that he led that side, his stock may now be higher than Ramprakash's.

The England party was uncertain yesterday about the competition rules relating to replacements for injured players, but it is thought that, as long as the request is a reasonable one — as would

Letters 19

seem to be the case in this instance — the organisers would have no objection.

Smith, who is regarded as one of England's weaker fielders, was perhaps guilty of trying too hard yesterday. To complete his catch, he sprinted 20 yards and then dived full length at deep mid-wicket to grasp a skier hoisted by Manzoor Elahi, the former Pakistan Test player.

"I felt it as I dived and that's when I must have pulled the muscle," Smith said. "At this stage, it feels very stiff and very sore. Hopefully, there will be a quick improvement, but, at the moment, it doesn't feel any easier than when I did it."

If Smith, 32, is out of the

World Cup, it would be a doubly cruel blow because he missed the climax of the 1992 competition after slipping a disc.

"This World Cup is going to be my last one and it means everything to me," he said.

"From the vibes I was getting from the management during the tour of South Africa, I felt I was quite lucky to be here.

"I wanted to prove people wrong and show everyone I was still good enough to play and do a very good job. For this to happen at an early stage is a major blow. It is a five-week tournament, but I need to keep playing and practising as much as possible to find my form and keep in rhythm."

Despite Smith's excellent record in one-day matches, he was not assured of a place in England's strongest one-day team. Earlier in the day, he had done nothing to change that view by getting out to his first ball. He was caught off an attempted cut against Ali Asad, a teenage fast bowler.

Smith featured in a typical England middle-order collapse: four wickets fell for 19 runs to leave them 86 for five. It started with Hick's dismissal for 38, Thorpe was also out for nought and Fairbrother scored only five. Earlier, Atherton, the England captain, was also out for five.

The damage was repaired by Stewart, who scored 65, and Russell, 60, in a partnership of 72, and Craig White later hit out effectively with 37 off 38 balls to take England to 247 for eight in their 50 overs.

England had little difficulty defending such a total. Cork claimed two early wickets and White three in an opening spell of four overs as the local team slumped to 63 for six.

Elahi and Mohammad Hussain added 90 in rapid fashion before Smith intervened with his costly catch to give White a fourth wicket. It set the seal on the match and possibly on Smith's World Cup.

SCORING: England 172 247 for 8 (50 overs, A. J. Stewart 65, R. C. Russell 60, Ali Asad 5-38), Lahore City 181 (44 4 overs, C. White 4-19)



Smith crumpled in agony after damaging a muscle in his groin when diving to take a catch during England's warm-up match in Lahore

## Australia will not compensate Sri Lanka

BY SIMON WILDE

GRAHAM HALBISH, the chief executive of the Australian Cricket Board, said yesterday that the World Cup organisers would not receive a cent should they seek compensation from Australia for refusing to play a match in Sri Lanka because of fears for their players' safety.

He dismissed as "idle flying" reports that the Sri Lankan board was looking at the financial obligations of defaulting teams. Sri Lanka are scheduled to play Australia in Colombo on February 17. The West Indies, who have also sought a change of venue after the recent car bomb killed 80 people in the capital, are due to play their qualifying pool

match in the same city on February 26.

Halbush said that he believed that the cancellation losses may be covered by insurance. "We would not entertain in any way any approach by either Sri Lanka or Picom [the organising committee] on that matter," he said.

Bob Simpson, the Australian coach, said that his players, who are preparing for the tournament in Brisbane, had not been distracted by accusations of cowardice in English and Sri Lankan newspapers for their decision.

A meeting will be held in Calcutta on Saturday between Picom, the International Cricket Council (ICC) and representatives of the four

visiting countries scheduled to play matches in Sri Lanka to attempt to resolve the dispute over venues. The meeting will be chaired by Sir Clyde Walcott, the ICC chairman, but it may be no more than an informal discussion and there was no sign yesterday of any of the parties softening their stances.

Kenya and Zimbabwe have said that they will fulfil their fixtures on the island, although Peter Chingoka, the president of the Zimbabwe Cricket Union, said yesterday that his country will not make a final decision until after the meeting on Saturday. The opening ceremony of the World Cup is the next day.

David Shepherd, the Eng-

land representative on the

12-strong National Grid panel of umpires for the competition, modelled a new look black coat at a wintry Lord's yesterday before flying out to join the festivities in Calcutta. Black was chosen as the best neutral colour for day-night matches.

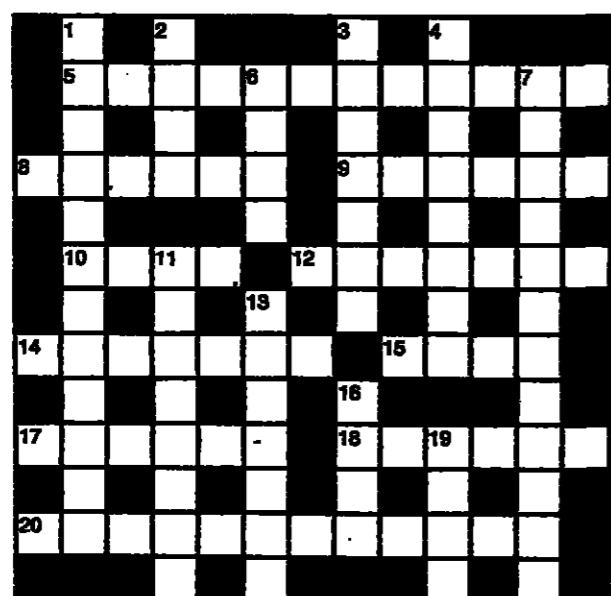
Steve Dunn, the New Zealand umpire, meanwhile was considering withdrawing from two World Cup matches in Sri Lanka in which he is due to stand. "Before Australia and the West Indies withdrew, I was prepared to take the advice of the organisers, but clearly there are serious security concerns and I've had second thoughts," he said yesterday. "I have to say that I'm now very reluctant to go to Sri Lanka."



Shepherd: models the new look

### TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 699 in association with  
BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS

- 5 City attractiveness (6,6)
- 8 Accent; strain (6)
- 9 Mediaeval freeman (6)
- 10 Make well: French priest (4)
- 12 Outshine (7)
- 14 Greek resinated wine (7)
- 15 Unit of computer storage (4)
- 17 Dishonoured (woman); dead (hero) (6)
- 18 Hole (eg in tooth) (6)
- 20 Execution order (5,7)

DOWN

- 1 Obstruction-negotiating contest (8,4)
- 2 Swamp, bog (4)
- 3 Pretend; behave exaggeratedly (4-3)
- 4 Dishonour, humiliation (8)
- 6 Call derisively; background noise (4)
- 7 Cross-dresser (12)
- 11 "Be bloody, bold, and —" (Macbeth) (8)
- 13 Not famous; not recognised (7)
- 16 Blemish; bare rock (4)
- 19 Small (medicine) bottle (4)

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THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UK's second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrow's second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week throughout the UK and Europe. All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

SOLUTION TO NO 698

ACROSS: 1 Hard done by 8 Pick out 9 Ghost 10 Toll 11 Partite 13 Drive 14 Clerk 16 Eurydice 17 Wasp 20 Monet 21 Atheist 22 Hunky-punk  
DOWN: 1 Hop it 2 Recalcitrant 3 Doom 4 Not bad 5 Big stick 6 Poor relation 7 Streak 12 Vendetta 13 Dreamt 15 Ack-ack 18 Pithy 19 Whip

## Top clubs reject Super League

BY JOHN GOODBODY

UEFA and Europe's leading football clubs yesterday agreed to allow the Continent's eight leading nations an automatic second entry into an expanded European Cup but ruled out any move towards a super league.

The unprecedented meeting between the European governing body, which has been under pressure to extend international competition among leading clubs, will work out details of the plan, in which countries such as England, Italy, Germany and Spain would have a second club in the annual tournament. If a club in one of these countries also held the trophy, then the nation would have three entries for the next season.

Lennart Johansson, the Uefa president, proposed that the 32 teams in the European Cup would play each other in a preliminary knock-out competition each season to determine the 16 who would take part in the Champions' League. The 16 losers would go into the Uefa Cup.

The holders of the trophy and the champions of the 23

best-ranked nations would be entered in the original 32 entries, along with eight from selected countries granted a second entry.

Frits Ahlstrom, the Uefa media director, said that the formula to decide which clubs should take part had yet to be finalised. However, it would probably be based on their previous ten years and possibly

best also on their league placings in that period.

Franz Beckenbauer, who was representing Bayern Munich, said: "I would like to make the Champions' League more attractive with more of the big traditional clubs having more possibilities to join in." However, he added that they should finish no lower than fifth in their domestic league and his view was supported by other delegates.

Ahlstrom said: "There seems to be no general backing for a super league and even the big clubs recognised that European competition should run alongside domestic leagues."

Maurice Watkins, a director and legal adviser of Manchester United, said that the idea of a super league was something that we "skirted round. Thoughts about that have been speculative."

Uefa's detailed plan will probably be finalised at its executive committee meeting next month.

The delegates were still to

discuss the implications of the Bosman ruling. This took a further turn yesterday when the European Commission in Brussels said that players from countries outside the European Union (EU), such as Poland, Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria, may have to be treated identically to EU citizens.

Barbara Nolan, the commission's spokeswoman, said: "We do not yet have a definitive legal view, but it appears that players from these countries may have a case for inclusion in the scope of the ruling. It may take a new court decision to be sure."

In December, the European Court of Justice ruled that it was illegal to restrict the number of EU nationals playing in club teams. However, association agreements signed between the EU and countries such as Morocco or Poland frequently include a non-discrimination clause covering their citizens working legally within the EU.

He will take account of injury stoppages, starting the clock to coincide with the commencement of play.

He will also take account of goal kicks that take more than 40 seconds, though that is covered in the laws anyway.

At the same time, the timekeeper will have a second watch, that will keep "running time" — that is, the actual time from the start of each half to full time — so that the results of the experiment can be more accurately analysed.

The first match where the timekeeper can operate will be at Sudbury on Saturday, where Wasps play Sale in the only scheduled first-division encounter.

Scots unchanged, page 39

## RFU calls time on wasted minutes

David Hands reports on a stopwatch experiment to give spectators more value

keep the time but, in the southern hemisphere, it was realised long ago that it is one duty of which the match official could reasonably be relieved. Part of the climax at important club or representative occasions is, for example, Australia is the crowd counting down the seconds on a ground where the clock is visible.

Each first-division club in the Courage Clubs Championship has been sent a klaxon and stopwatch and asked to provide a location at the side of the pitch where the timekeeper — an off-duty RFU

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مكتبة الأرشيف

Mystery Boeing crash off Dominican Republic leaves Germany in mourning

# 189 killed as tourist jet plunges into Caribbean

By HARVEY ELLIOTT  
AIR CORRESPONDENT

INVESTIGATORS were last night working on the theory that a crashed Boeing 757 airliner suffered an electrical or engine failure before plunging into the Caribbean, killing the 189 people on board, mainly German tourists.

After the Turkish-owned jet took off from the Dominican Republic, it climbed through 7,000ft and accelerated to 275mph before appearing to go into a sharp turn and head back towards land. It plunged into the sea 13 miles offshore, breaking up on impact.

There was no mayday call from the pilots, possibly because at the time of the crash they would have been changing radio frequencies from the local airport at Puerto Plata to the main air traffic control centre at San Juan.

The five British airlines, which together operate a total of 89 Boeing 757 twinjets, were last night anxiously awaiting an indication of what caused the crash. The jet had been leased to a local airline to ferry German holidaymakers to and from the Caribbean's fastest-growing destination.

Although the German tour operator which had chartered the holiday jet suggested that the crash may have been caused by lightning, operators of the 693 aircraft of the same type now in service were sceptical. The jet has one of the



best safety records of all modern airliners and has proved itself capable of withstanding the most violent storms. There was no suggestion the weather was exceptional at the time, but a sudden squall could have resulted in hail or violent down-draughts which are known as "windshear".

Had the jet suffered an engine failure, it could have turned automatically towards the "dead" engine, appearing to radar operators to be trying to return to land. Then, if the pilots were busy in resolving the immediate problem or the jet was hit at the worst possible moment by the



The Turkish-registered Boeing 757 which crashed

squall, it could have been forced suddenly lower, smashing wing-tip first into the sea.

Rafts were spotted in the shark-infested sea, possibly because they are stored in the doors and would have deployed automatically as the jet broke up.

Flight 301 was filled with German tourists who had spent one or two weeks in the booming resorts of the Dominican Republic. The jet had been "wet leased" — with both flight deck and cabin crew provided — to the Dominican-based airline, Alas Nacionales, by the Turkish charter airline BirgenAir.

Built in 1985, the 757 had originally been used by Eastern Airlines in the USA. It was then sold to a number of other carriers before being bought by BirgenAir last year.

Like most other charter flights from Europe to the Dominican Republic, the plan was for flight 301 to put down at Gander in Newfoundland and refuel on the "great circle" route over Britain on its way to Frankfurt and Berlin.

The Dominican Republic —

part of the island of Hispaniola which was discovered by Columbus in 1492 and which it now shares with Haiti — has had one of the most phenomenal growth rates of any holiday destination. This year an estimated 100,000 Britons will visit it — 33 per cent up on last year — of which 50,000 will book with Thomson. Its main attraction, apart from some of the best beaches in the Caribbean, is its cheapness. A two-week all-inclusive holiday costs about £850 per person — £150 cheaper than most similar package holidays.

Oeger Tours, the German tour operator which organised the flights, picked the Turkish charter because it was cheaper and enabled them to save at least £100 per person.

One other theory certain to be examined by the investigation team is that a bomb could have brought down the jet. In 1994 a bomb hidden on an Alas Nacionales commuter plane exploded as it took off from Colón in Panama, killing all 21 people on board.

British Airways has 40 of the aircraft in regular service and it is also a work-horse for charter airlines like Britannia, Monarch, Air 2000 and Airtours.

At the end of December, an American Airlines Boeing 757 crashed into a mountain in Colombia after an apparent navigational error. This is the only other recorded crash involving the jet since it came into service in 1983.



Grief-stricken relatives of passengers leaving Berlin's Schönefeld airport

## Japanese premier admits cash link

FROM PEGGY HODSON  
IN TOKYO

THE Japanese Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, admitted yesterday that he received political contributions from three organisations owed money by housing loan companies which the Government plans to bail out with taxpayers' money.

His admission, in parliament's budget committee session, will heighten public opposition to the bail-out scheme, costing at least 655 billion yen (£42 billion) from public funds.

Hiroshi Yamada, of the main opposition party, Shinshisei, said Mr Hashimoto's political fund-raising group received 1.05 million yen from FVM, a vending machine company, and others, while he was Finance Minister in 1990. At the peak of the "bubble" economy, Mr Hashimoto ordered financial institutions to restrict loans to property companies, triggering huge loans to them by housing loan companies — outside government control.

Many believe his action contributed directly to the bad-loan problem weighing down Japan's financial system. It amounts to at least 4.405 trillion yen, 95 per cent of which is irrecoverable.

Mr Hashimoto has defended his Government's scheme but many believe losses may reach 3 trillion yen, meaning the contribution by taxpayers will be two trillion yen — or about £100 for every man, woman, and child.

## Jiang reins in military over Taiwan

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

PRESIDENT Jiang Zemin of China is reported to be uneasy about jingoist leaders in the People's Liberation Army who are urging rough action against Taiwan.

According to yesterday's *South China Morning Post*, Hong Kong's leading English-language newspaper, Mr Jiang has warned his more gung-ho generals that an invasion of Taiwan would imperil Chinese reunification with Hong Kong next year and with Macau in 1999. Any such steps, Mr Jiang is quoted as saying, must wait until both reunifications are complete.

The generals are said to have told Mr Jiang, who is also chairman of the Central Military Commission, that China should not delay its plans for Taiwan, which they feared would soon take possession of better weapons.

Although in recent weeks Mr Jiang and other party leaders have urged the military to remain obedient to the party, the paper reported that

the bellicose military attitude towards Taiwan "has more support in Peking than Mr Jiang would like".

Chinese forces opposite Taiwan are mobilising for military manoeuvres intended to intimidate the Nationalist stronghold as it prepares for its first presidential election next month. Senior military analysts in Hong Kong confirmed yesterday that the build-up is known from satellite photographs and from

### Broadcasting ban eased

Taipei: Taiwan yesterday eased a decades-old ban and allowed Chinese films and television programmes to be shown here. The move was part of an effort to ease tension with China, which has increased over Peking's suspicion that Taiwan is moving towards independence.

It also reflected a growing self-confidence on an island that previously treated such

what is referred to as "travelers". The analysts, however, think the impending war games are not a prelude to a mainland invasion of Taiwan, which they regard as highly unlikely.

In Washington, William Perry, the American Defence Secretary, said that he was "concerned but not alarmed" at the mounting Chinese pressure on Taiwan, reports of which are being fuelled by leaks from Peking designed to

rattle foreign investors and the island's stock market.

Mr Perry said that last November when Chinese officials in Peking asked Mr Nye, then Assistant Secretary of Defence, whether the Americans would intervene in the event of a direct Chinese threat to Taiwan, Mr Nye responded: "We don't know what we would do, because it's going to depend on the circumstances, and you don't know what we would do."

This week in Washington, Li Zhaoxing, China's Deputy Foreign Minister, was told that a military threat to Taiwan would be regarded as "a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area and a grave concern to the United States", an American official said.

It reported that a Peking study on China's fighting capability concluded that the Americans would intervene militarily if the mainland plainly menaced Taiwan, and advised against such a threat.

## Red Cross accuses Serbs of massacre

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

AT LEAST 3,000 people captured during the fall of Srebrenica are dead and the Bosnian Serb authorities are responsible for the events there last July, a senior official of the International Committee of the Red Cross said yesterday.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8 1996

Tub-thumping populist raises Right's standard

## Ecstatic Buchanan deals Gramm crippling blow

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AN ELATED Pat Buchanan proclaimed himself the "Republican Right's standard-bearer yesterday after dealing Phil Gramm, his conservative rival, a crippling blow in the opening battle of this year's American presidential race.

The outspoken television commentator who grievously wounded President Bush in the 1992 New Hampshire primary, produced another giant-killing performance in Tuesday night's Louisiana caucuses, defeating Mr Gramm in a state the senator believed he had locked up.

Through days of furious tub-thumping populist campaigning, Mr Buchanan cobbled together a "new coalition" of anti-abortion activists, pro-

tectionists, isolationists and gambling foes in a deeply conservative southern state. He was rewarded with 13 delegates to this August's Republican convention. Mr Gramm won eight.

It was "a victory for a new conservatism of the heart... a conservatism of faith, family and country," Mr Buchanan said. "The Battle of the Bayou is over and it has ended in a great triumph for the Buchanan Brigades." It was also a stunning setback for Mr Gramm, one from which this hugely ambitious but little-loved Texas senator may find it impossible to recover.

He had pressed Louisiana to hold the nation's first caucuses, believing a thumping

victory in his neighbouring state would give him valuable momentum before next Monday's Iowa caucuses. He had worked Louisiana long and hard. Its Republican establishment had rigged the caucus rules in his favour and all the leading Republican candidates save Mr Buchanan had stayed away, preferring to concentrate on Iowa.

Reporters who followed him on to his aircraft after the first exit polls said that he sat in "stunned, disconsolate silence and absently plunged an index finger into an armchair ashtray." After a few minutes, he looked up and said simply: "Can't do a damn thing about it now."

Mr Gramm, who has spent

### Beaten senator smiles on in Iowa

FROM TOM RHODES  
IN DES MOINES

HE WAS always known as "Mr. Relentless," the most focused, disciplined and unforgiving member of the Republican presidential pack.

Subdued by a crushing defeat in Louisiana less than 24 hours before, Phil Gramm, the Texas senator, still managed to retain a smug optimism yesterday as he arrived in Iowa for the first real test of

the 1996 campaign. With the smell of the vanquished still clinging to his coat-tails, the Republican stood before the state capitol in Des Moines to assure faithful Iowans that he would not quit now.

For all his unpopularity in the country as a whole, his poor showing among the religious Right in Louisiana and his absence from the farm Bill vote in Washington, Mr Gramm still has a strong following among the highly

agricultural inhabitants of this state. His state machine is strong and, unlike certain Republican colleagues, he has devoted much time to the homes and pig roasts of Iowa, preaching "kitchen table" economics on a grand scale.

On Monday, about 120,000 Republicans will gather at 2,041 party precinct meetings to choose their presidential nominee. Experts believe that Mr Gramm will be among the top three names.

### Madonna defies critics



Madonna: Eva Perón has become role model

New York Madonna, having discovered that Argentina is less indulgent to Hollywood versions of history than some other countries, has attacked critics of her forthcoming role as Eva Perón (Quentin Letts writes).

The American singer, whom some Argentinians consider unsuitable to play Perón in a film version of Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Evita*, called a news conference to say that she was hurt by the reaction to her arrival in Argentina to make the biographical film. She said: "Form your opinions after you have seen the movie."

She said that Perón, whom many Argentinians almost

worship, had become a role model for her. "I am full of admiration for her. She came from nothing to have such influence over the country."

Madonna's announcement, part publicity stunt, included an appeal to ardent Peronists to allow the film to be made without protests.

Peronists loyalists say the wife of the former Argentinian leader should not be played in the \$60 million (£39 million) film by a woman named after the mother of Christ, who has appeared in rock concerts in skimpy outfits, singing of lust. Slogans such as "Evita Lives! Get out Madonna!" have appeared on walls in Buenos Aires.

### Pope hits at Latin America's Protestant invasion

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS  
IN GUATEMALA CITY

DIRECTLY confronting the challenge to his Church's traditional dominance in Central America, the Pope has accused Protestant missionaries of sowing "confusion and uncertainty" among Roman Catholics.

On his first visit to Central America in 13 years, the Pope devoted the second day of his stop in Guatemala to a series of reminders that the region had been Catholic for centuries and that many had given their lives for the Church.

The Pope arrived later in Nicaragua with a message of reconciliation for a country still scarred by the civil war that ended in 1990. He travels to El Salvador today.

Protestant evangelical churches in

Central America have surged in membership in recent years, worrying Catholic leaders. About 30 per cent of Guatemala's 10.7 million people now identify themselves as Protestants — the largest percentage of non-Catholics in any Central American country.

The poor and Indians may be most in need of guidance from Catholic clergy, the Pope said in an evening prayer service in a Guatemala City park on Tuesday. He said they were the most affected by the "proliferation of sects and new religious groups that generate confusion and uncertainty among Catholics".

Security broke down momentarily as the Popemobile arrived behind the altar for evening Mass in Guatemala City. Scores of enthusiastic Guatemalans broke through police lines to rush

toward the pontiff as he stepped out of the vehicle. As the papal entourage walked up the steps of the outdoor altar, people in the 100,000-strong crowd even knocked against the Pope's chief bodyguard while others pounded on the Popemobile's windows.

After the Mass, the pontiff hugged young Indian boys and girls and blessed other Indians who mounted the altar. One man held a sheep and a couple carried a basket with a newborn baby in it. Others brought native plants and tropical flowers to be blessed. The Pope displayed one of his brightest smiles of the day as he met with the handful of worshippers.

The pontiff began his day by following the path of Catholic pilgrims to Esquipulas — the scene of 1980 peace accords that helped to end civil wars in Nicaragua and El Salvador — was yet unfinished.

## Hostage escapes gunman's vengeance

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS  
IN HONOLULU

FOR six tense hours police and a live television audience in Hawaii watched as a sacked worker, who had already shot his former supervisor, stood with a shotgun barrel taped to a colleague's head with his finger taped to the trigger.

"It is going to end with a gun bang," John Miranda promised before he launched into a final 60-second countdown — 59, 58, 57...

When the count reached 15, Tom McNeil, the hostage, tore away from the tape and grabbed the barrel. Miranda fired twice, missing, but police marksmen opened fire, shooting him dead.

"We had to do what we had to do," said Michael Nakamura, the police chief, adding that any chance of resolving Tuesday's ordeal peacefully ended when Miranda began his countdown.

Miranda, 28, died about half an hour after the drama outside the waterproofing business where he once worked. Mr McNeil, 30, was left with scratches while Guy George, 39, the supervisor who had been shot in the leg earlier, was in hospital.

The confrontation began when Miranda returned to the Seal Master of Hawaii offices with the words: "Good morning, guys, you remember me?"



John Miranda holds a gun at a former colleague's head but was later killed by police

## THE SUNDAY TIMES FASHION PREVIEW

### VERSACE'S LATEST COLLECTION REVEALED

This weekend, The Sunday Times Magazine unveils Gianni Versace's sensational collection for spring/summer '96, featuring the world's newest supermodel Amber Valetta exclusively photographed by Richard Avedon

Dead zone: Is infertility a threat to humanity? Kerb that car: Zoë Heller learns to drive in LA Primal screen: Woody Allen opens up

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# The bullet that paralysed a diplomat

Graeme Gibson's work in Nairobi ended when armed car-jackers shot him. Emma Wilkins finds out how he and his wife are dealing with disability

**A**s he drove home through the dark streets of Nairobi, British diplomat Graeme Gibson knew he was being followed. Looking carefully in the rearview mirror of his Land Rover Discovery, he watched as a battered Peugeot with two men inside shadowed his every move.

His memory of that night before Christmas is vivid. He tried to shake off his pursuers but was suddenly conscious of their car accelerating and drawing up alongside. A man leant out and fired two shots. The second hit Mr Gibson in the neck, missing a vital artery by a millimetre, but with devastating consequences.

"I knew immediately that I was paralysed. My foot went down on the accelerator and I remember trying desperately to get it off but I couldn't move it," he says.

The car slewed across the road and hit a brick wall. Because his foot was still stuck on the pedal, the car was beginning to fill with fumes. All the doors were locked, in accordance with Foreign Office security advice to diplomats.

"I can remember a crowd gathering around the car but they couldn't get me out because I couldn't move. Someone had to throw a brick through the back window to get me out. I was dragged over the back seats by a man who had seen the shooting. He cradled my head in his lap until the police car arrived and took me to hospital."

Mr Gibson, 43, had been just minutes from home in one of Nairobi's prosperous suburbs when he was attacked.

His wife, Pamela, who also works for the Foreign Office in Nairobi, was told about the shooting in a telephone call from a passerby who had helped in the rescue.

"I didn't know what was going on. I thought it might have been some kind of a joke. I jumped out of the car and drove

over cars, driven by diplomats from most nations, are popular targets because of their high black-market value.

The bullet entered his neck on the right side, severing his spinal cord and leaving him paralysed from the chest down. The bullet is now lodged in a vertebra on the left side, but surgery to remove it is too dangerous and could lead to further paralysis. Mr Gibson was flown home for tests at St Thomas' Hospital before being moved to Stoke Mandeville spinal injuries unit. He has no feeling in his legs and lower arms, but some sensation in his shoulders. It could take months before doctors know the permanent extent of his injuries. He has only just learnt how to sit in a wheelchair.

Occupational therapists have devised attachments which fix on to his hands above the knuckles, including a toothbrush, hairbrush and spatula. "He wanted to be able to do a barbecue, so they devised a spatula attachment to flip over the burgers," Mrs Gibson says.

The couple, who have been married for eight years, are determined to be positive. "Just one millimetre's difference and the bullet could have gone through his vocal cord or a main artery, so it could have been worse," Mrs Gibson says. "His spinal cord is severed so he will never walk again. But he's still very much the same old Graeme — he laughs and gets irascible and frustrated just like he used to."

The couple are hopeful that he may regain some use in his thumb and forefinger, which would allow him a degree of independence. "When I stroke his hand, there is some feeling in the index finger and thumb," says Mrs Gibson. "If he could pick up a fork to feed himself, or be able to tap on a computer, the difference would be enormous."

Dundee-born Mr Gibson used to be a keen golfer, and had just taken up tennis again after a ten-year break. A self-confessed rugby fanatic, he is a member of the Hash House Harriers, an international group largely made up of expats which he describes as

"a jogging club that drinks". Mr Gibson admits that he has not fully taken in the consequences of his injuries: "It hasn't really hit me psychologically yet. I want to get on with the rehabilitation and find out what I can do," he says.

Mr Gibson has two daughters, Jenny, aged 17, and Ellen, 15, from his first marriage to an American diplomat. The two families arranged to be posted to Kenya together so that the girls could see their

father regularly. Mr Gibson's first wife had arrived in Nairobi just a month before the Gibsons began work last year.

We had been working towards this for such a long time and it had finally all come together," Mrs Gibson says.

The couple have been overwhelmed by the response from friends and colleagues across the world. "Faxes have just flooded in from every cont-

inent," Mr Gibson says. "I've had loads of messages from businesspeople in Kenya and Britain thanking me for the work I did in the trade department. It shows that the job does have an impact."

Mr Gibson's salary will be paid for the next six months and the Foreign Office has said it hopes he will be able to return to work — possibly from home. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, has visited his hospital bedside.

The future for Mrs Gibson

is equally uncertain, but another Foreign Postone is almost certainly ruled out. Despite the shooting, Mr Gibson's love of Africa is as strong as ever. "I'd love to say I joined the Foreign Office to serve my country, but I'm afraid it was the desire for travel," says Mr Gibson. "I don't regret joining. I was just unlucky. We've had some wonderful times and met some wonderful people. I wouldn't take back a minute of it — well, maybe just 30 seconds."

Graeme Gibson (second from left) with his brothers and mother on his wedding day; he used to be a keen golfer, tennis player and rugby fanatic

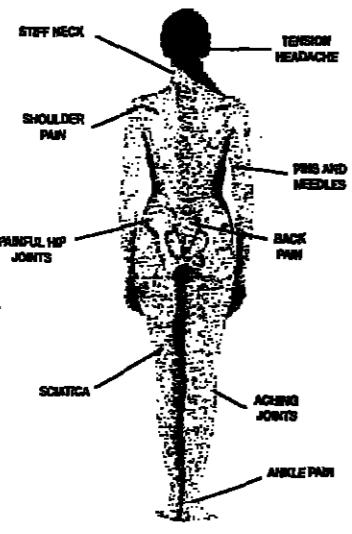
**They've made a spatula attachment for his hands so he can flip over the burgers on the barbecue'**

around until I saw the Land Rover. He had just been taken away to the hospital, so I followed on behind."

Mr Gibson, a second secretary at the High Commission, knew the dangers of driving through the Kenyan capital at night. Four diplomats had been shot or injured in car-jackings over the previous few months. The Land Rover Dis-

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Who make the best surgeons in today's operating theatres?

## Through the keyhole

IN THE past, the more enthusiastic medical students used to spend hours practising tying knots. They exercised their skill by knotting in confined spaces and without looking at the thread.

All that activity was to perfect their operating skills so that, in years to come, they could make quick and competent surgeons, capable of tying off bleeding arteries before their patients became exsanguinated.

These exercises were not only to improve their performance in the simple art of knot-tying, but to develop their sense of touch.

With the advent of keyhole surgery, sensitive fingers are no longer so useful. In minimally invasive surgery the diseased organs are not exposed and seen in three dimensions nor are they felt by carefully nurtured fingers, but they are only viewed on a flat television screen as a two-dimensional image.

Meanwhile the surgeon,

instead of getting sight and feel on the operating field, does his cutting, tying and removal of the debris of disease by using an endoscope and other inserted instruments. He monitors his actions by watching his own surgery on the screen.

Keyhole surgery requires quite different manual techniques from those which a surgeon learnt in his youth and which he has been perfecting ever since. A surgeon's judgment,

acquired over years of experience, his basic clinical skills and his pre-clinical knowledge are an essential foundation for keyhole surgery, but the type of dexterity required is different and relies on finely honed hand-eye co-ordination.

It is likely that some sur-

geons will never

succeed in mastering the new craft.

The journal Hospital

Doctor has recently reported

on a study undertaken in

recent cases of infestation with bot fly larvae. The infestation, known as myiasis, is caused by a maggot-like insect penetrating the skin. The eggs of the bot fly are carried on the abdomen of another insect, very often the mosquito, and when it settles on the soft tissue of a warm-blooded animal, they hatch. The larvae can pass through clothing, and within ten minutes they are safely buried in the human flesh, where they grow to thumb nail size. The larvae

set up an inflammatory reaction like a boil. If a suitable paste is applied to the inflamed area the larva struggle through it to breathe, and can then be pulled out.

The

controversy about the prevention of malaria after exotic holidays has

drawn

attention

from

a review

published

in

Hospital

Update

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which can be brought

back from rural areas of

Africa and Central America.

Three Newcastle doctors,

Dr M.H. Snow, Dr M.J. Col-

bridge and Dr S.K. Ed-

wards, have written of three

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**A**s the catacomb comes back into fashion, a simple guide to reserving a last resting space

THEY spend their lives toying with an undressed Jenkins leaf in San Lorenzo, shopping on the King's Road and drinking cocktails in Kartouche. So when they die it is only natural that the ladies who lunch want to be buried as close as possible to their Knightsbridge stomping ground in the sepulchral splendour of Brompton Cemetery.

Yet the inhabitants of this gilded corner of west London have as little chance of being laid to rest in Brompton's ivy-covered grounds as of joining Arthur Scargill's Socialist Labour Party. Along with cemeteries all over London, Brompton, the imposing home to the remains of such luminaries as Eustace Pankhurst and John Wisdom of almanac fame, has run out of room.

Last week, the cemetery announced that it would be tackling its space deficit by reopening its catacombs to new inmates. At present housing 1,200 lead-lined tombs containing the rotting relics of the Victorian bourgeoisie, the catacombs may soon be welcoming the corpses of their great-great-grandchildren.

"There are many people who would like to be buried here, but at the moment they can't," says a cemetery spokesman. "The only space available is in graves purchased by undertakers who then sell the spaces on. When the catacombs reopen there will be room for several hundred more bodies."

All over London, the problem is the same. Deaths are about to boom, from the present figure of 640,000 a year to a peak of 820,000 in the middle of the next century. Yet the cemeteries are full to bursting. Anyone whose heart is set on a particular cemetery should book a plot now and expect to pay for it.

"Anyone who wants to be buried in London is talking £3,000 as a conservative estimate," says Ian Hussein, the deputy superintendent registrar of the City of London Cemeteries and Crematoria.



Classical grandeur: the imposing catacombs at Brompton may soon be welcoming the remains of the great-great-grandchildren of Victorian worthies already interred there

## Cemeteries to die for

plots at his cemetery. "We have no famous residents, unless you count a few victims of Jack the Ripper" cost from £1,500 for a single grave to £16,000 for a family vault.

"That doesn't count digging the grave, the headstone and the costs of the funeral."

Karl Marx is no doubt turning in his grave at prices in his resting place, Highgate, and arguably London's most beau-

tiful, and certainly its most exclusive cemetery. According to Richard Quirk, the manager of privately-owned Highgate, prices range from £1,300 for a single grave in the "prosthetic east cemetery" to more than £10,000 for a vault in the fashionable west cemetery, near the bones of Ralph Richardson, George Eliot and Penguin.

"We do have a distinct

ambience which makes us very popular," says Mr Quirk. "And yes, people of a certain persuasion might like to be near Marx's grave."

Bernard France, of A. France and Son, a funeral parlour in Bloomsbury, central London, says: "Highgate is very popular if you want to be buried with all the great and you have the financial resources. It's beautifully kept

and has a distinctive, but charming, Gothic gloom. Sometimes when we are dealing with a distinguished person, you really feel you should mention it as an option."

Also popular with Mr France's customers, as well as being cheaper, is Hampstead Cemetery, which houses Lister, Marie Lloyd and one Arthur Price, a ventriloquist buried with his dummy. This, how-

ever, is local-authority controlled and open only to residents of the borough of Camden.

In the private sector, Mr France recommends leafy Kensal Green, in northwest London, where Thackeray, Brunel and Trollope are buried. According to Julie Rugg, of the Cemeteries Research Group at York University, it was Kensal Green which set

the trend for Victorians to be buried in cemeteries. "Two children of George III chose to be buried there — the first members of the Royal Family to be buried among commoners. After that, everybody wanted to go there."

Opened in 1832, Kensal Green was the first cemetery in London, designed to house the overflow from the cramped churchyards, where

gravediggers frequently had to dig through bodies to make space for new ones. The first private cemeteries, opened with profit in mind, were often so crowded that one family in the 1840s complained that the ground level at the graveyard next door had risen so high it was now level with their windows. Vicars, who received a large proportion of their income from burial fees, discouraged the development of new burial grounds.

"It was at this time that the catacombs at Brompton became incredibly fashionable," says Dr Rugg. "People saw them as being in the tradition of the landed gentry with their family vaults."

I took of the cholera epidemic of 1849 to change this fashion. Catacombs were seen as insanitary. People thought they were catching diseases from these bodies buried above the ground and the catacombs were forced to close." The City of London has never closed its catacombs. "They've never been that popular," says Mr Hussein. Brompton, meanwhile, is planning to charge between £1,500 and £3,000 per cell, using profits to restore the catacomb buildings.

Those too impetuous to reserve a place in the houses of the dead might prefer to be cremated, like 70 per cent of the population.

"For cremation, many people like Golders Green Crematorium," says Mr France. Opened in 1902, Golders Green, a listed building with 12 acres of garden, including a dispersal lawn planted with more than a million crocus bulbs, was London's first crematorium and hundreds of celebrities have gone up in smoke there, including Dame Peggy Ashcroft, Marc Bolan, Vivien Leigh, Sid James, Anna Pavlova and T.S. Eliot. In the grounds there are memorials to, among others, such cremates as Freud, Chamberlain, Kipling and Peter Sellers. A cremation costs £210.

For those still undeterred by the price of interment, the best solution might be to be laid to rest in the back garden.

"It is not illegal, so long as you keep a burial register and are not going to poison a water supply," says Dr Rugg. "But I have never heard of anyone actually doing this. It sounds like a nice idea, but think what it does to the resale value of the property."

JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

Benedict Nightingale raises the curtain on a curious world where you can earn a fortune by pretending to be yourself

## Acting — or simply living the part?

RECENTLY there was a rumour that Stephen Fry was going to play himself in a television version of *Fat Chance*, Simon Gray's book about the disastrous production of his play *Cell Maze*. In other words, Fry would be a large, worried actor who flees England for Bruges and ends up in a beret posing as someone called Monsieur Simon.

Actually, his next major task is to take the lead in a film about Oscar Wilde, and, if we are to believe its makers, this will be almost as close a match. "Stephen's intelligence, flamboyance and wit are such

she performed tragedy, she contrived to remain her irreducible self. After committing suicide in Dryden's *Tyrannic Love*, she leapt off her bier to reassure her male fans she was "the ghost of your poor departed Nelly" and promised to "come dance about your bed at night".

Of course all actors are typecast to some extent. Their bodies, faces, voices and, often, personalities dictate or limit who they can play. You would never cast Glenda Jackson as



Fry playing Fry. Coward as the archetypal Coward: two classic examples of typecasting

the shrinking Desdemona, or Quentin Crisp as Tamberlaine the Great, or Edward Fox, the quixotic Edward VIII, as Bill Sikes. Yet acting is a slippery business, which constantly surprises and persistently eludes definition.

It is more than padding that is currently transforming Oliver Ford Davies, who won an Olivier award for his playing of a very thin vicar in David Hare's *Racing Demon*, into a very fat John Ogdon in William Humble's *Virtuoso* as

the Wolsey, Ipswich. Nor is it just a northern accent and a streetwise slouch that turns the elegant Diana Rigg into Mother Courage at the National. A mark of major actors is an uncanny ability to reinvent themselves from top to toe. It is to resist typecasting.

Even so, this often involves drawing on aspects of themselves they have in common with the characters they are playing. Though Oliver was always considered the most external of important actors —

one who mimicked others rather than exposed his own nature — his Macbeth was praised for its uniquely dark, inner qualities. Why? Surely because he knew what it meant to hunger to become and remain number one.

The great megalomaniac actors have often scored special successes in despotic roles. The venomous Kean was a superb Richard III. Macready, who scorned other performers as "beasts from hell", was brilliant as Coriolanus and King John. Wofit, a monster of egotism, was a wonderfully domineering Lear. Edith Evans was Lady Bracknell.

Typecasting can be deceptive. It can even be a sort of disinformation. Rex Harrison usually played cool, urbane, affable men, yet in private was the selfish ogre whose last words to his solicitous son from his deathbed were: "What can you do? Drop dead." But for better actors typecasting has meant owning up, telling truths about themselves.

Was Michael Redgrave the stronger in the role of the Captain in Strindberg's *Father* for being a tormented bisexual? Certainly, one critic praised him for showing "the weakness of the lonely neurotic behind the Captain's sham virility". Was the late Robert Stephens the moving Falstaff he was because he knew that

drink and dissolute living had wrecked him and his career?

But here we are talking about something deeper and more private than the term "typecasting" can convey. If you want a more literal example of what it means, none is more horribly apt than John Barrymore's farewell to the stage, a play called *My Dear Children*. It concerned a Shakespearean ham on the skids, and at the time the once-great actor was skidding almost in skid-row.

Typecasting can be destructive. It can even be a sort of disinformation. Rex Harrison usually played cool, urbane, affable men, yet in private was the selfish ogre whose last words to his solicitous son from his deathbed were: "What can you do? Drop dead."

Even so, this often involves drawing on aspects of themselves they have in common with the characters they are playing. Though Oliver was always considered the most external of important actors —

passes at anyone female, from tart to waitress to his own daughter to his estranged wife, who was less than half his age.

The audiences, who knew some of this, flocked to see the auteur self-portrait. Barrymore fulfilled their expectations, tipsy fluffing his lines, or falling asleep on stage, or giving crude, offensive curtain-speeches.

It was called "the spiritual striptease of Gipsy Rose John", "the complete obliteration of Dr Jekyll by Mr Hyde". And what did Barrymore do next? He made a film called *The Great Profile* about a ruined actor drunkenly adlibbing through a trashy play. Typecasting has gone, or sunk, no further.

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## Alan Coren



■ Don't talk tosh about Cézanne's art — I know how he rose to fame

You don't know how lucky I am. I have been up Cézanne's ladder. It has an iffy rung. I do not, however, intend to tell you which one. Not unless we meet, and you say: "For me, *Hills and Mountains in Provence* has always been the fulcrum of his development. I'm not talking only about the new audacity, I'm talking about that extraordinary palpability in its structure which shows just how far Cézanne had advanced beyond the mirages of impressionism."

If you say that — certainly if the woman opposite counters with "Yes, it was once owned by Gauguin, you know, but the point came when Paul could no longer endure what he called the aggression of its solidity" — I shall put down my fork and say, "I have been up his ladder."

I can do a full five minutes on Cézanne's ladder. It was a good ladder, honest, coarse-hewed, thick-poled, peg-jointed, no nails, no worm either, a bit of warp of course, after all this time, but no unsettling whip, you could be five metres up that ladder and not know you were on one, provided you remembered the iffy rung, it had this creak. I can't say whether or not it creaked when Cézanne went up it, a century is a long time in ladder-ling. Then again, it might depend what he was carrying, he was a big man by 1886 and if he had an easel under one arm, possibly a heavy box of painter's bits and bobs under the other, it might even account for the rung becoming iffy in the first place. We cannot know all there is to know about such things, you know. Johnny Art is a mysterious cove, and while it is diverting to think that my ear might have shared a creak with Cézanne's, I am not jumping to any conclusions.

I rented the ladder in 1986. Not just the ladder, naturally; you do not load your family into a stationwagon and drive to Aix-en-Provence for a fortnight up a ladder. I rented a nicely mottled 18th-century house because it had this terrific swimming-pool that the Mont St-Victoire reflected in it, you could float through it on your back, it was the only view of the mountain Cézanne never saw, the pool wasn't built until 1920. Not that I know whether he could swim. I should have to ask the woman opposite, or that bloke at the far end who was banging on about Cézanne's architectural approach to the female buttock a bit back, green underpainting to relate flesh to rock, all that.

It was the elderly *gardien* who told me about Cézanne going up the ladder. His father and grandfather had been *gardiens* before him, and one of his grandfather's duties had been to prop the ladder against the wall so that Cézanne could climb onto the flat roof for an aspect of the mountain unavailable anywhere else. Many a morning, Cézanne would trudge a kilometre up the lane from the *Jas de Bouffin*, the house he inherited from his father in 1886, climb the ladder and gaze.

I did that, too. Sometimes, I took a bottle up. Between the first glass and the last, the evening mountain-flank would change from pink to blue by going through a million colours between which have no names at all.

I did not know, then, of course, what a very important thing this was to have done. That was because I did not know that a huge Cézanne retrospective would open at the Tate today and become the most talked-about event in the whole history of talking. I have already been to two dinner parties and a lunch where they talked of little else and the exhibition hadn't even opened; the scalp crawls at the prospect of all the talking which lies ahead, after everyone has seen the thing. And everyone will see the thing. It is the thinking man's *Mousetrap*.

I do not want to hear anybody's opinion about Cézanne's pictures. I never want to hear anybody's opinion about anybody's. Not least because courtesy requires a response, and before I know it I feel my own jaw going up and down, and hear my own mouth trotting out tosh. Which is why, this time, I am one of the lucky ones. For once, I am in a position to counter the, er, mirage of aesthetic criticism with the aggressive solidarity of anecdote. I shall tell them about going up his ladder. And if that doesn't make them put a sock in it, I shall do his bucket. Because there was this old wooden bucket in the wash-house, and the *gardien* said ...



## No minister: Bart's belongs

A great hospital is facing closure, but there is a better alternative

I am not a frequent resigner. I usually accept the American adage "if you don't keep your feet under the table, you don't get to carve the turkey". However, this week I have felt that I had to resign from the task force on the future use of the St Bartholomew's Hospital site, the most important historic site in world medicine.

On Tuesday, I wrote to Sir Ronald Grainer, the chairman, with whom my personal relations remain excellent. "I feel that I should confirm my decision to resign from the St Bartholomew's Hospital Committee. As you know, my view is that the King's Fund proposal is the most promising that we have seen so far. If it is held that we cannot consider this, I see no further use in the committee."

My experience on the task force has convinced me that there is no appropriate alternative function for more than a fraction of the Bart's site which is remotely economical, and no valid non-medical use which is likely to be financially viable. The press states that the cost of re-commissioning the site for the London School of Economics — probably the most attractive non-medical proposal — would be £10 million; that would have to come out of charitable or public funds. Even that excludes the £65 million of net gain from property sales anticipated in the Royal Hospitals Trust's case for a new single-site hospital in Whitechapel, and the LSE figure has probably been taken before VAT. If one includes the site value write-off, and the likely tax, the cost of transferring the LSE to the Bart's site is of the order of £250 million, more than the gross capital cost of the proposed single-site hospital, or of either of the two-site alternatives. The combined cost of building the single-site hospital, decommissioning Bart's, writing off the existing Bart's site value — to mention £100 million of recently installed medical facilities — and of fitting up and paying VAT, cannot be less than £500 million, an absurd figure.

Two 1995 consultant studies have thrown doubt on the financial calculations of the plan for a single-site hospital. CASPE Consulting, employed by the authoritative King's Fund, comments: "The continued preference of the single-site option, on financial grounds, is reliant on the disposal of the Bart's site. Without a firm guarantee of site disposal, the taxpayer could be left holding an expensive white elephant." The York Economics Consortium commented that

"the preferred option generates an additional saving of £9 million at a cost of almost £100 million additional capital spending. We believe that there is sufficient uncertainty around the estimates of net revenue savings — which are central to the appraisal — to make the assumed difference in costs between the options extremely sensitive".

The most recent large single-site hospital to be built in London is the Chelsea and Westminster. Combined forecasting errors came close to an overrun of £200 million. The capital cost turned out to be more than double the original business plan estimate: the

property sales came to less than half, and revenue costs also overran substantially. The proposed Royal London revenue saving of £9 million on £100 million of extra capital spending could easily turn into a large revenue deficit on a larger, but unknowable, capital sum.

Both the CASPE and the York Economics Consortium studies show that the specific Bart's decision needs to be re-examined. I do not think that anyone who has been involved with the Bart's decision, or who was involved with the Chelsea and Westminster decision, could still believe in the open-mindedness of the Department of Health, or, in the Bart's case, of the Royal Hospitals Trust. Objectors have faced a mixture of dogma, bureaucracy and skilful lobbying, with minimal willingness to listen to counter arguments.

There is already a shortage of beds throughout the National Health Service, and particularly in London. I could write several articles about the horror stories of patients, but the hard statistics make the case. Either Britain is already grossly short of beds, or the rest of Europe is grossly wasteful. Dr Max Gammie has for years followed the reduction in the number of hospital beds per thousand of population in Britain.

If one takes the latest figures available from the OECD, England in 1993 had 4.5 beds per 1,000, as against 7.6 in 1980. France had 9.4 against 11 in 1980.

Germany 10.1 against 11.5, Italy 6.7 against 10.1, and Spain 4.2 against 5.4; the European average is 8 against 9.7 in 1980. All the European countries show a decline, but England shows a faster decline than any, and to a level lower than any except Spain. This has been achieved partly by reductions in the average period of stay in hospital, but also by such practices as "hotbedding", mixed wards, holding patients on trolleys and the reduction in the margin for emergencies. One major flu epidemic could well overwhelm the English hospital system.

This loss of hospital beds in England seems to have developed a momentum of its own. No fewer than 103,000 beds were lost in the 1980s, and beds per 1,000 fell further, from 5.5 to 4.5, in the period between 1990 and 1993. This is not because Britain is underspending on public health. We spend about the same in Britain as the average in the EU: around 6 per cent of gross domestic product. The rest of the EU does, however, spend somewhat more in the independent sector, about 1.7 per cent of GDP, against Britain's 1.2 per cent.

The decision to close Bart's rests on three false premises. The first is that there is a profitable alternative use for the site, or, at worst, an appropriate use which will not cost the public money. No such uses have been proposed to the task force. The second is that the cost of the new hospital will not exceed the plan estimate, and that the revenue saving will not fall short. The two most recent independent consultants question these assumptions. The third is that the reductions in the number of NHS beds can safely continue, although English beds are probably now half the average European level. The closure of Bart's is part of the bed closure programme which has already reduced much of London medicine to a Poor Law standard. This deterioration is particularly disturbing in the Royal Hospitals Trust's deprived area.

people. I think it's sad." And they are on the same side.

• *Cézanne fever has gripped London, but there is also worldwide interest in the Tate Gallery's exhibition. Rumours spread yesterday that the teenage bride Sarah Cook came back to Britain from Turkey solely for the private view. And the gallery has received a call from the Bournemouth Echo. "They asked for an interview with Cézanne," explains a spokeswoman. "But only dear Doris Stokes could have accomplished that."*

Tabitha and her mount

Tabitha. "Now, because my father works for the Queen, people think we are fawning monarchists, but it was a separate thing."

• *Elizabeth Connell, who plays Isolde in the English National Opera's Tristan and Isolde, which opens on Saturday, plans to keep sweet during the five-and-a-half-hour marathon by sticking straws through the set. She will sneak sips of water from hidden bottles in the event of dehydration.*

P.H.S.

## Dishonoured

UNIVERSITY lecturers are so appalled at a proposal to give Kenneth Clarke an honorary degree that they are threatening to strike. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is being considered for an honorary doctorate in Law at Nottingham Trent University, and academics are aghast.

It is not so much his academic record that has got mortars in which spinning, as the manner in which the Government has cut back funding at his behest. The lecturers also point out that the university's policy to date has been to avoid honorary doctorates for serving politicians.

A final decision about the degree will be made at the end of the month by the university's board of governors. But there are concerns that the old boy network might swing matters Clarke's way — the chairman of the governors, Sir David White, was at Clarke's school, Nottingham High, and is a long-standing friend of the cherubic Chancellor.

At the weekend, the lecturers' union, NATFHE, raised the matter at a conference in London, saying: "We all want to know why the university wants to honour a serving politician who has just

imposed cuts of £300 million on higher education." The university refused to be drawn on the matter — plans for honorary awards are "strictly confidential".

### Hick up

ONE SUREFIRE indication of the esteem in which the England cricket manager, Ray Illingworth, holds his team is the Sky Sports fantasy cricket team that he has created. He scoured the world for talent, but picked just two England players, Michael Atherton and Graeme Hick. None of the English bowlers, it seems, are up to scratch.

### Team spirit

ROMANCE will soon blossom on the terraces at Old Trafford, and we are not talking about schoolgirl crushes on Ryan Giggs or Eric Cantona. Manchester United has just received a licence for marriage ceremonies at the hallowed ground. Yesterday the red army (as fans in that neck of the woods are termed) put the Old Trafford scoreboard under relentless pres-



sure. Everybody wants to score in the game of two halves.

Many will be disappointed, however. "Regulations are strict and it is important that people realise they can't get married on the pitch," says a spokesman. "We hope to be able to cope with four weddings a day." Requests for ceremonies on the roof of the new grandstand have already been

turned down.

### Eggsactly

RELATIONS between two of the most forthright women in Westminster have turned as bitter as the winds from Siberia. Teresa Gorman has fired off an acry note to Edwina Currie over her latest apalling bonk-buster. In the book's epilogue, Edwina writes: "Teresa Gorman had at last succumbed to advancing years, stopped taking

the tablets [a reference to her HRT treatment] and shrunk to a benign little granny."

"I wrote a little note to Edwina to ask her if it was really necessary for her to make such comments, and she replied saying, 'read the book', but I really don't have time to read that stuff," explains Teresa, who distinguished herself yesterday in the MP's Bramley apple and spoon race.

"She has really fished around in the garbage of Parliament in order to make snide remarks about



Horse drawn

THE PRINCESS ROYAL'S evening may be over, but there are high hopes in the Queen's household of further glory in the sport. Tabitha Ross, daughter of Col Malcolm Ross, Comptroller to the Lord Chamberlain, is being tipped to represent Britain in the Olympics — if not this time then in 2000 — on her trusty steed, HRH.

Ross, 25, had wanted to call the horse, which she keeps at her stable in Abergavenny, HRH the Prince of Wales, because he was sired by the stallion Ascendant. "However, Buckingham Palace said we couldn't name a horse after a member of the Royal Family, but we could have HRH, which is as good as," whinnies

**Culture is not anarchy**  
Schools must reject relativism, says Nicholas Tate

Last month *The Times* reported the death in Massachusetts of the last surviving speaker of Cotawha, a North American Indian language. He had faced death knowing that with him would die not just a language but a whole culture. Cotawha is not unique. It joins the long list of languages and cultures which have succumbed to the advance of the West. A new empathy for cultures which have been under threat was symbolised last year when the Queen signed legislation in the name of the New Zealand Government tendering its profound regret and an unreserved apology to the Maoris for the seizure of their land.

But we are not without cultural anguish of our own. We lament the waning of many aspects of our own culture: the continuing "melancholy, long, withdrawing roar" of Christianity, the decline of knowledge of the classics, the illiteracy of new élites, the passing of the England of "the meadows, the lanes, the guildhalls, the carved choirs", and the threat to cultural diversity from the global communications revolution. When half of young people aged 15-35 feel that there are no definite rights and wrongs in life, when the same proportion do not know what Good Friday commemorates, and even more are ignorant of our history, it is not surprising that some people — not only the middle-aged and the nostalgic — feel that cultural continuity hangs by a thread.

It is about time we had a clearer view of education's role in these matters. That is why the Government's School Curriculum and Assessment Authority is hosting an international conference this week on culture, society and the curriculum.

In my view, there are four principles on which we need to agree. First, that a basic purpose of education is to help young people to appreciate the best of our cultural inheritance and to sustain it. This needs to be said, if only to combat the romantic individualism which supposes that each new generation can somehow create the world afresh.

Second, that the curriculum needs to be firmly and proudly based in a cultural heritage with its roots in Greece and Rome, in Christianity and in European civilisation. This is why our present curriculum emphasises the centrality of British history, Britain's changing relations with the rest of the world, the English literary heritage (with Shakespeare in pride of place) and the study of Christianity, alongside the development of critical skills.

Third, that all pupils should be made aware of the rich heritage of some of the other cultures and traditions now represented in this country. All pupils, for example, should leave school knowing that both China and the Indian subcontinent are the homes of ancient civilisations with rich artistic and literary traditions. Teaching about other cultures in schools is too often about superficial features, such as saris and samosas, rather than about these great achievements.

Fourth, that schools should aim to develop in young people a sense that some works of literature, music, art and architecture are more valuable than others. Until recently, hardly anyone would have doubted this. Though they were subject to change and dispute, it was accepted that there was a literary canon, an artistic canon, a musical canon, and so on.

Today, however, cultural education takes place against a different background. The dominant intellectual current is cultural relativism. According to this view there is no difference in value between, say, Schubert and Blair, between Milton and Mills & Boon, or between Vermeer's *View of Delft* and a dead sheep at the Tate. All are cultural products to be understood, not in terms of their value, but in relation to the structures and circumstances — including the gender, race and social class of the artist — within which they were produced.

By contrast, a key purpose of the curriculum has been and should continue to be the introduction of young people to high culture: the pursuit of knowledge and the arts for their own sake, the exercise of judgment irrespective of the circumstances in which the work of art was produced, and a sense of intrinsic value of those works of art which have been supremely successful in helping us to make sense of and respond to the world.

Certain implications follow from these broad principles. The school curriculum needs to help develop a sense of civic and national identity, and to maintain the distinctive features of English as it is written and spoken in these islands, in the face of its growth as a world language. Schools should also reflect our belief that despite technological changes, the written word, and in particular the book, has a special place at the heart of our culture.

Cultural continuity is also about the transmission of moral codes. The idea of universal values has been central from the Greeks to the Enlightenment. Perhaps we need a reassertion of this moral tradition.

These issues arouse strong passions. The school curriculum has long ceased to be a secret garden, and debate needs to involve the whole community. As T.S. Eliot put it: education is a "religious question", not just a matter of "getting on".

Dr Nicholas Tate is chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority.



## BLAIR'S CONSTITUTIONAL

Labour's leader still walks on the uncertain side

The clearest water in British politics now lies between the Labour and Conservative positions on the constitution. Yesterday, as Tony Blair set out the principles behind his support for constitutional reform, the Tory party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, gave notice that he would harry the Labour leader mercilessly over what he described as "an entirely new constitutional order based on fashionable left-wing prejudices in defiance of the wisdom of the ages".

The electoral rhetoric is clear enough. But what of the wisdom of the ages itself? It cannot be doubted that Britain's constitution is the result of evolutionary rather than revolutionary change, that it has never been torn up and replaced, simply added to and amended in response to circumstances. Equally, nor has it always stood still. The question now is whether Labour's proposals fit the evolutionary tradition or represent a damaging revolutionary upheaval.

Incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights and the introduction of a freedom of information Bill are examples of good incremental reform. As we have argued before, the human rights measure would enable British citizens to appeal to British rather than European judges if their rights have been infringed. And freedom of information would return power to the citizen that has been jealously guarded by politicians and civil servants. Neither threatens political stability.

Nor would a judicious return of powers to local government. As Simon Jenkins has often and eloquently argued on the page opposite, the accretion of power to Whitehall and Westminster must be reversed. Big government is almost inevitably bad government; and one reason why national politicians are held in such low regard is that people feel so remote from the political decisions that affect their lives.

Even reform of the House of Lords ought to be achievable without rending the fabric of British parliamentary life. As long as

hereditary peers who have proved their worth are included in the new chamber, there is much to be said for merit, rather than birth, determining its make-up. If an element of elected accountability can be introduced too, so much the better.

The critical problem arises over devolution, particularly to Scotland. The decentralising arguments which pertain to local government are as powerful north of the border, but they have the added force that Scottish discontent with the current system has lent them. There is also a strong case that devolution could be effective at keeping the Union together, as the Unionists in Northern Ireland already understand.

The Scots have long complained that,

while they consistently vote for Labour in large numbers, they end up being governed by Tories. The difficulty, though, is that abolishing this anomaly merely replaces it with another, the knotty West Lothian question which, in its many forms, draws attention to the asymmetry that would result if MPs at Westminster were able to vote on English and Welsh matters but not Scottish ones.

The logical response to this question is to prevent Scottish MPs from voting on English and Welsh legislation, confining their powers to matters covering the UK as a whole. Yet that could lead to the impossible position of a Labour majority government being unable to pass its own legislation in England and Wales: this would have been the case after the October 1974 election, when Labour's majority was maintained by its Scottish MPs.

Mr Blair is well aware of the importance of the West Lothian question. But he has yet to come up with an answer to it. Until he does, it is impossible to pass judgment upon his devolution plans. For the collateral damage that they might wreak could be greater than the discontent that they are designed to address. Evolutionary tradition demands that the risks of change should not outweigh its benefits.

## LILLEY'S LOGIC

The future of pensions is private

The central issue in every developed country, according to Peter Lilley, is how to curb welfare spending. Yesterday the Social Security Secretary outlined his modest proposals for nudging more people towards private provision. He also made short work of the small beer presented as an effort for instant social cohesion by the Opposition. Mr Lilley has established a formidable reputation as a reformer on tricky political terrain. But there is still further to go.

Mr Lilley, in an inaugural lecture to the think-tank *Politeia*, chose to deal with the most significant part of his portfolio — provision for the elderly. He skilfully delineated the central problem, recognised by Government and Opposition alike: in years to come an ageing population will make greater than ever demands on a shrinking workforce. He also pointed out that the State does not save, individuals do. The Government spends \$90 billion a year on social security, but that is simply current expenditure immediately disbursed. If care is to be taken of the millions more who will be living on pensions in a generation's time then money needs to be put away, money the Government does not have. The proposals unveiled by Mr Lilley yesterday to encourage small businesses without occupational schemes to set up group personal pensions should help relieve some of the State's burden.

The Opposition has not tried to pretend that the cradle-to-the-grave welfare state can continue unrefined. Its leaders know that cold arithmetic would quickly puncture any such inflated rhetoric. Instead they pose as the genuinely radical reformers. Labour figures argue that only their own party, as the founder of the welfare state, is equipped to make the tough decisions necessary. Just as only Nixon could go to China so, it is said,

only Labour can reform welfare: the status quo's supporters have to be turned on, by their own side.

It is a familiar argument, but one which in this case is as unconvincing as it is abstruse. By Labour's logic it should have been the only party capable of curbing the over-mighty trades unions of the Sixties and Seventies: instead its attempts ended in humiliation. It needed Margaret Thatcher and Norman Tebbit to put the unions in their place. The real lesson is that tough problems are only solved by politicians who know their own mind. Labour still does not, as Mr Lilley showed yesterday.

The Social Security Secretary argued that two Labour proposals, a guaranteed minimum pension and a compulsory second pension, already exist in the shape of the state pension plus income support and the State Earnings Related Pension Supplement. Labour has shown recent interest in Asian models, in the shape of Singapore's compulsory Central Provident Fund and the trade union-influenced Australian pension funds. Both, however, involve the direction of investment for political ends — and both consequently yield less income than wholly private schemes.

The thrust of Mr Lilley's analysis is persuasive — the most effective way to safeguard care is for individuals to make their own provision. Moving in that direction will mean that many may have to pay twice, for their own future and for those currently on the state pension. Any movement must be gradual. But the direction should be clear — the erosion of state support and an eventual system fully funded by personal savings. That would be true stakeholding, and has the potential to be genuinely popular capitalism.

## NO OTHER FRUIT

London falls under Cézanne's tenacious spell

Paintings and sketches by Paul Cézanne — bright leaves in an artistic whirlwind — have come to the Tate Gallery in London. Prize works are here from galleries great and small: St Petersburg, Philadelphia, São Paulo, Paris, Berlin, Liverpool, Basle, Los Angeles and more. Londoners and London's visitors should rejoice in the unbound opportunity now at hand to study, admire and revel in this art of many textures.

Such distinction, as Cézanne's rarely comes without pain and paradox. The artist whom we regard today as the greatest of the Moderns — with a certainty of belief that he, if alive, would surely have found maddening — made only late and painful progress in his own lifetime. He had to wait until he was 56 years old before he had his first one-man exhibition. He had the dapper Ambroise Vollard to thank for that — and the latter had reason to be grateful to Cézanne as well. The artist was to paint Vollard's portrait four years later: it is the most timid of his later portraits, although Cézanne could not resist endowing even this prosperous Parisian picture-dealer with the hands of a Provencal peasant.

Even though the Establishment, to its discredit, found him all too easy to resist, his fellow artists were not slow to discern his genius. Degas, Gauguin and Renoir all bought Cézanne's paintings; Pissarro

never doubted his greatness, even at the beginning, when he might have been forgiven, for doing so; and Matisse bought the *Three Bathers* when he could least afford the price, declaring sweetly 37 years later that he still did not know the canvas "completely". Cézanne was less appreciative of his contemporaries: "I scorn all living painters, except Monet and Renoir," he once growled.

The splendidly hung Tate exhibition brings out Cézanne's tremendous diversity. As John Golding wrote recently in an exquisite essay in *The New York Review of Books*, there were very few static moments in Cézanne's career: with the various genres of painting so strongly differentiated in his mind, his art "was continually on the move". There is nothing, whether pastiche, portrait, still life or landscape, that he did not paint. From unduly violent beginnings he moved finally to *The Large Bathers*, strange, huge women of quite compelling mansuetude.

Yet in this array of canvas and composition, it is his still lifes which will perhaps endure best — with admiration undiminished — into the decades that follow our own. Nowhere is his industry more apparent, nor even his sense of symbol than, for example, in the *Still Life With Apples* he completed in 1894. Go to the Tate and taste Cézanne's apples. Afterwards, there is no other fruit.

## Tighter rules for juries questioned

From Mr Louis Schaffer

Sir, There may be many good reasons for tightening the rules which allow persons called for jury service to avoid their obligations, but those given by Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary (report, February 7), make depressing reading.

He makes at least three unverifiable assumptions: that the increase in acquittals means that the guilty are getting away with it; that juries are "swayed" towards the working class and unemployed; that such jurors are often unsympathetic to the police (an odd attitude for a Labour politician).

It is not naive to suppose that a juror who is annoyed at the cancellation of the family's holiday or worried about the closing of his business will be more inclined to convict?

There may be other reasons for the increase in acquittals between 1988-89 and 1994-95. One is that it is indicative of fewer miscarriages of justice. Following the codes of practice introduced under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, such as the tape-recording of suspects' interviews, which may take place only at police stations, dishonest officers can no longer invent confessions or criminals claim that they have been "verballed" and so would be advised to plead guilty. This was not the case before the Act.

Another reason has been the greater disclosure by the police of unused material which may assist the defence.

If Mr Straw is really concerned about how juries reach their verdicts and not just trying to show that Labour is tough on crime, he should be advocating a change in the law to allow research into how juries arrive at their verdicts.

Yours sincerely,  
LOUIS SCHAFFER,  
10 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4.

From Professor Bernard S. Jackson  
Sir, I fully endorse Professor Mike McConville's view ("Putting juries on trial", January 30) that there needs to be serious research into the jury system before new policy is made. I am less persuaded that such paltry evidence as exists justifies his own evaluation.

He refers *inter alia* to a 1992 shadow jury experiment (conducted in the Liverpool Crown Court) which generated a television programme, *Inside the Jury*, and suggests that this showed the jury deliberations to be "rational and thoughtful". Not everyone would agree.

At one point, with the jury divided four for conviction against eight for acquittal, one member of the minority observed that his side consisted of "four mature men" while the majority was made up of "four mature ladies together with all the youngsters".

At another point, frustrated at the apparent impasse, the same juror suggested a compromise: there were two charges, so he proposed "an honourable or dishonourable draw" — conviction on one charge, acquittal on the other. Rational and thoughtful?

In the Bible, the accuracy of the judicial function was legitimised by faith in divine inspiration. God was said to be "with you when you pass sentence" (11 Chronicles xix, 6). In the present state of knowledge, our faith in the jury enjoys a similar status.

Yours sincerely,  
BERNARD S. JACKSON,  
University of Liverpool,  
Faculty of Law, Liverpool L69.

From Mr John Bunting  
Sir, Most criminal business is transacted in the magistrates' courts. If Mr Straw really holds such an old-fashioned and patronising view of the working class and the unemployed as his comments seem to suggest, will new Labour, if elected, also take steps to ensure that these supposed undesirables are avoided when selections for the magistracy are made?

Yours truly,  
J. BUNTING,  
77 Green Lane, Buxton, Derbyshire.

February 7

## Floral tributes

From Mrs M. J. Miles

Sir, Perhaps because it is now so easy to order flowers over the phone this has increasingly become the custom, particularly when a tragedy occurs that touches the heart of the nation. Such tributes are, however, almost invariably left in their florists' wrappings, so that soggy paper and steam-ed-up plastic obscure the beauty of the blooms.

The overall effect is often depressing rather than uplifting. Perhaps Mr Brian North Lee's excellent suggestion (letter, February 7) that single flowers and small posies might be acceptable should be adopted also on more public occasions.

Yours faithfully,  
MARGARET MILES,  
77 Marlborough Crescent,  
Sevenoaks, Kent.

From Mrs Harriet Lear

Sir, A simple bunch of flowers instead of the often disastrous formal wreath, or even worse, plastic-wrapped bouquet, could be encouraged by a plea for "No bought flowers, please" in death notices.

Yours faithfully,  
HARRIET LEAR,  
Knowlards Farm, Barcombe,  
Nr Lewes, East Sussex.

February 7

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Uses of complementary medicine

From Dr Nick Argyle

Sir, I am delighted that you drew attention to the benefits provided by "alternative medicine" in your feature and leader yesterday (February 5; see also article, February 6). You are undoubtedly right to emphasise the importance of more well organised scientific studies, but where research has been done we need to ensure that the results are applied in general practice, for the benefit of both doctors and patients.

A study published a month ago in *Hypertension*, the journal of the American Heart Association, showed the regular practice of transcendental meditation (TM) reduced high blood pressure by about 11 points, without the side-effects of medication.

In all over 150 studies on TM have been published in scientific journals, showing that it helps with a wide range of stress-related disorders; that those who practise it have a significantly reduced need to go to the doctor (87 per cent reduced hospitalisation for heart disease in one study); and even that inflation-adjusted health care costs can be reduced by between 5 and 7 per cent annually over a period of up to seven years (*American Journal of Health Promotion*, January/February).

The problem is that doctors who are aware of the potential uses of TM and wish to apply it often find it difficult to secure a budget from the local health authority. The Government and Department of Health are rightly keen for there to be more health promotion; they should therefore ensure that GPs are informed about the very significant research results on transcendental meditation.

Yours faithfully,  
NICK ARGYLE  
(Consultant psychiatrist),  
Northwick Park Hospital,  
Psychiatric Department,  
Watford Road, Harrow, Middlesex.  
February 6

From the Secretary of the General Council and Register of Osteopaths

Sir, Dr Thomas Stuttard (February 6) cannot tar osteopathy with his broad-brush denigration of "alternative remedies".

All professionally regulated osteopaths undergo extensive training in basic medical sciences, followed by appropriate clinical training. This enables them to identify cases which require immediate referral to a general medical practitioner.

The recent report of the Clinical Standards Advisory Group on Low Back Pain recommended that the optimum treatment for acute back pain was early manipulative therapy, including osteopathy. It also stated that there is no convincing evidence that X-rays are necessary before manipulation and that CT and MRI scans are unnecessary for use as diagnostic screening tests.

Well over 100 funding and some non-funding GPs have already contracted with osteopaths to provide treatment for their NHS patients and the number is increasing daily. Osteopaths are also employed in some NHS hospitals and community trusts.

The new General Osteopathic Council, the first members of which were announced last Thursday, will have similar responsibilities to those of the General Medical Council, whose president has unreservedly supported the osteopathy profession.

Traditional and complementary treatment should be able to work together for the benefit of the patient.

Yours faithfully,

ANTOINETTE SYM  
(Spiritual healer),

17 Hungerford Road, N7.

February 6

## Australian stance on World Cup

From Senator John Faulkner,  
Minister for the Environment,  
Sport and Territories, Australia

Sir, I am writing to convey my anger, and that of the Australian people, at the sentiments expressed in your editorial of February 6 (see also letter, February 7).

To brand the decision of the Australian Cricket Board not to send the Australian team to Colombo for their World Cup match against Sri Lanka as "caveman" is totally unjustified and grossly unfair to everyone who has been involved in this difficult decision, most importantly the Australian team members and their families.

The Australian Cricket Board and the players are well aware of the impact of their decision on the World Cup tournament. They have decided only with the greatest reluctance not to play in Colombo in view of the very real and serious security risks posed by the current situation in Sri Lanka. Their decision has the full support and understanding of the Australian Government and people. You will be aware that the West Indies team has independently reached the same decision.

I reject utterly your assertion that the Australian players have "acted neither with courage nor with diplomacy" on the basis that "they have upset the organisation of a complex tournament and handed a propaganda victory to the murderous Tamil rebels...". They are quite understandably concerned about their safety. The players' concerns are shared by their families and their many supporters. The Australian Cricket Board has quite rightly put the team's welfare ahead of other considerations in reaching the decision not to play in Colombo at this time.

Yours etc,  
JOHN FAULKNER,  
Minister for the Environment,  
Sport and Territories,  
Parliament House,  
Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia.

February 7

From Dr Daya Pandita-Gunawardena

Sir, The cricket-loving people of Sri Lanka, almost the whole of the island, eagerly await a change of heart and of mind by the Australian and West Indian cricket authorities. Our recent good performances abroad and the World Cup, which is the greatest sporting event in Sri Lanka, have generated tremendous enthusiasm and interest. I and many millions are crying out for a reinstatement of the full World Cup programme. The games against the Australians and West Indians would be two of the finest first-round matches in the tournament.

The Sri Lankan authorities, acknowledging the anxieties of the visiting cricketing ambassadors, have gone to extraordinary lengths to provide the kind of security usually reserved for visiting heads of state. Disruption to the programme under these circumstances may well create a dangerous precedent. I sincerely hope that all four matches will be played in Sri Lanka as scheduled.

Yours faithfully,  
DAYA PANDITA-GUNAWARDENA  
(Sri Lankan Cricket Board Representative in the UK),  
132 Forester Lane, Purley, Surrey.

## A new royal yacht

From the Secretary General of the Royal Yachting Association

Sir, The proposed royal sail training ship ("Is this the new *Britannia*?", Weekend, February 3) would promote our maritime heritage in a quite outstanding manner. She would project a real presence in harbour and at sea, in a thoroughly modern yet environmentally sensitive way.

The imaginative concept of Queen's caskets from the Commonwealth as well as Britain would provide young people with an unforgettable experience. The project would be a marvellous symbol of British innovation and character as we reach the end of this millennium. The Head of State, diplomatic, commercial and youth development roles are all embraced by the concept. I very much hope that it proceeds.

Yours sincerely,  
ROBIN DUCHESNE,  
Secretary General





## NEWS

## Blair puts hereditary peers on notice

■ Tony Blair yesterday put Britain's hereditary peers on notice to quit with his strongest pledge that a Labour Government would swiftly end a system under which people wielded power on the basis of birth but not merit or election.

He put forward a two-stage plan for reform of the House of Lords under which the right of some 750 hereditary peers to sit and vote in the Upper House would be scrapped in an early piece of constitutional legislation ..... Page 1, 11, 19

## Top Foreign Office woman quits

■ Dame Pauline Neville-Jones, 56, the most senior woman in the Foreign Office, is to join the National Westminster Bank after rejecting two top posts — as ambassador to Bonn and special adviser to the Prime Minister. Her salary of £200,000 could be doubled by performance-related payments ..... Page 1

## Lockerbie gesture

The people of Lockerbie, whose community was devastated by Britain's worst air disaster, have taken in hundreds of stranded motorists in a remarkable show of community spirit ..... Page 1, 5

## Scott storm gathers

Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker of the Commons, stepped into the growing row over the Scott report by supporting Labour demands for an early sight of the 1,800-page document ..... Page 1

## Crash jet uninsured

A Boeing 757 which crashed off the Dominican Republic killing all 189 on board was not properly insured and had not received formal authorisation to make the fatal flight ..... Page 1, 14

## The Beast jailed

A rapist known as the Beast of Belgravia, who attacked a woman days after being discharged from a psychiatric unit, got five life sentences ..... Page 3

## Carling complaint

Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, has defended his decision to reject Julia Carling's complaint about privacy invasion ..... Page 5

## Wrong Pole

American scientists have found that the much-photographed post used to mark the location of the South Pole has been stuck in the wrong place ..... Page 6

## Army recruits invited to stand easy

■ Lieutenant-General Hew Pike, who fought in one of the Falklands' toughest battles, told MPs that measures had been introduced to ensure recruits were not put off military life by an over-exuberant sergeant-major. He said: "We don't put them into boots straight away. We have less of a sink-or-swim approach than in the past" ..... Page 3

## Blurred culture

Schools must introduce pupils to high culture and help them to escape the creed that sees no difference between Schubert and Blur, the Government's chief curriculum adviser said ..... Page 7

## Heir to stay

Jay Khadka, 19, a former Nepalese mountain boy who is heir to an 18th-century English castle and a £1.5 million fortune, may have won his appeal against being deported ..... Page 10

## Taking the veil

After a lifetime trying to escape her father's bloody legacy, Svetlana Alliluyeva, Stalin's only daughter, may have found sanctuary for her soul in a Catholic convent ..... Page 12

## Film fraud

Germany's most adventurous maker of documentaries has been exposed — 22 of his scoops were staged with the help of disguised neighbours and friends ..... Page 13

## Jiang jitters

President Jiang Zemin of China is reported to be uneasy about jingoist leaders in the People's Liberation Army who are urging tough action against Taiwan ..... Page 14

## Man of the Right

Pat Buchanan proclaimed himself the Republican Right's undisputed standard bearer after dealing Phil Gramm a crippling blow in Louisiana ..... Page 15

## The Right

Pat Buchanan proclaimed himself the Republican Right's undisputed standard bearer after dealing Phil Gramm a crippling blow in Louisiana ..... Page 15

AA Roschak is charged at 35p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times

Weatherfax is charged at 35p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times



Friends of the Tate queuing in London yesterday for the Cézanne exhibition, which opens to the public today. Pages 1, 13, 18, 19, 33

## BUSINESS

**Railway setback:** Negotiations over the £3 billion Channel Tunnel Rail Link contract have been set back by alleged financial irregularities at Union Railways, the company that designed it ..... Page 23

**Lloyds Chemist:** A bid battle is under way for control of Lloyds Chemist with a £584 million bid from Gehe, the German pharmaceutical wholesaler, for the British chain UniChem, which had made an agreed bid of £530 million, may top the offer ..... Page 23

**Markets:** The FTSE-100 index chose to ignore another record-breaking run on Wall Street and ended up 21.4 points down at 3,726.1. Sterling was down 0.5c against the dollar at \$1.5303 and up 0.5p at 2.2715 ..... Page 39

**Rugby league:** Ellery Hanley, the former Great Britain captain and coach, is to join Sydney Tigers. His last competitive appearance was ten months ago ..... Page 39

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